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IRELAND.

No one, except a small infatuated minority among the Fenians themselves, can believe that any direct good will be caused by Fenianism. None of the objects which the Fenians declare that they have in view are at all likely to be attained. At the same time, it is undeniable that an amount of attention is now being paid to Irish affairs which, but for recent events in and connected with Ireland, they never would have commanded. Obstructionists are already trembling for the life of the Established Church in Ireland. Men of progress are proclaiming war not only against the Irish Church but also against the Irish system of land tenure; and there are indications that no election address of the conventional Liberal type will be thought complete without a paragraph on the subject of Irish grievances and the absolute necessity of redressing them. As a specimen of the vague, unmeaning nonsense that is uttered on the subject of Irish affairs, let us take the following, which we find in a manifesto addressed by a candidate for Parliamentary honours to "the electors and non-electors" of one of our metropolitan boroughs:—"The great difficulties with regard to Ireland," says the would-be legislator, "are, in my opinion, only to be overcome by looking them boldly in the face, removing anomalies, and redressing grievances in a temperate and conciliatory spirit. In treating the land question, every possible encouragement should be given to the tenant, without violating the rights of ownership." "Any other measure for the amelioration of Ireland," he adds (apparently without being aware that he has not as yet spoken of any measure in particular), "would have my hearty support."

Difficulties are to be looked at in the face, anomalies are to be removed, grievances redressed, and tenants "encouraged"—though not at the expense of their landlords! This is the sort of stuff which every well-meaning Liberal will be obliged to utter at the approaching general election; and it is well, on the whole, that such should be the case. In addition to the usual inevitable phrases about free trade and non-intervention, it will be absolutely necessary for all who aspire to the character of Liberal politicians to include in their addresses some phrases about the wrongs of Ireland. That at least will be better than to ignore those wrongs, after the manner of numbers of Conservatives, who maintain now that no concessions to Ireland should be made under the force of pressure, as formerly they maintained that, in the absence of pressure, concessions were not necessary.

If the rank and file, at least on one side of the House, will be prepared to support serious reforms in the political and economical system of Ireland, it is equally certain that the leaders of the Liberal party will have some such reforms to bring forward. During the last few days two of our most eminent Liberal politicians have published letters or pamphlets on Ireland, Irish grievances, and

the remedies that must be found for them. The most important of these productions, and certainly the most practical as regards its views and suggestions, is the one by Earl Russell, who, after being often taunted—perhaps rather *too* often—with his passion for letter-writing, has at last written a letter which really does him honour. It was not to be expected that Earl Russell would have a word to say in favour of Fenianism. He, in fact, shows that the general condition of Ireland was never better than at that particular time when Fenianism first made its appearance. Wages had risen, cultivation had

general system of leases, with compensation for improvements and an easily-accessible court to determine their value. It is known to all who have paid the least attention to this subject that in Ireland the landlord, contrary to the custom in England, spends little or nothing on his estate; while, if the tenant chooses to do so, the reward he gets is, too often, to have the value of his improvements recognised by a proportionate increase in his rent.

With respect to the Church in Ireland, what Earl Russell suggests is "the endowment of the Roman Catholic Church, the endowment of the Presbyterian Church, and the reduction of the Protestant Episcopal Church to one eighth of the present Church revenues of Ireland."

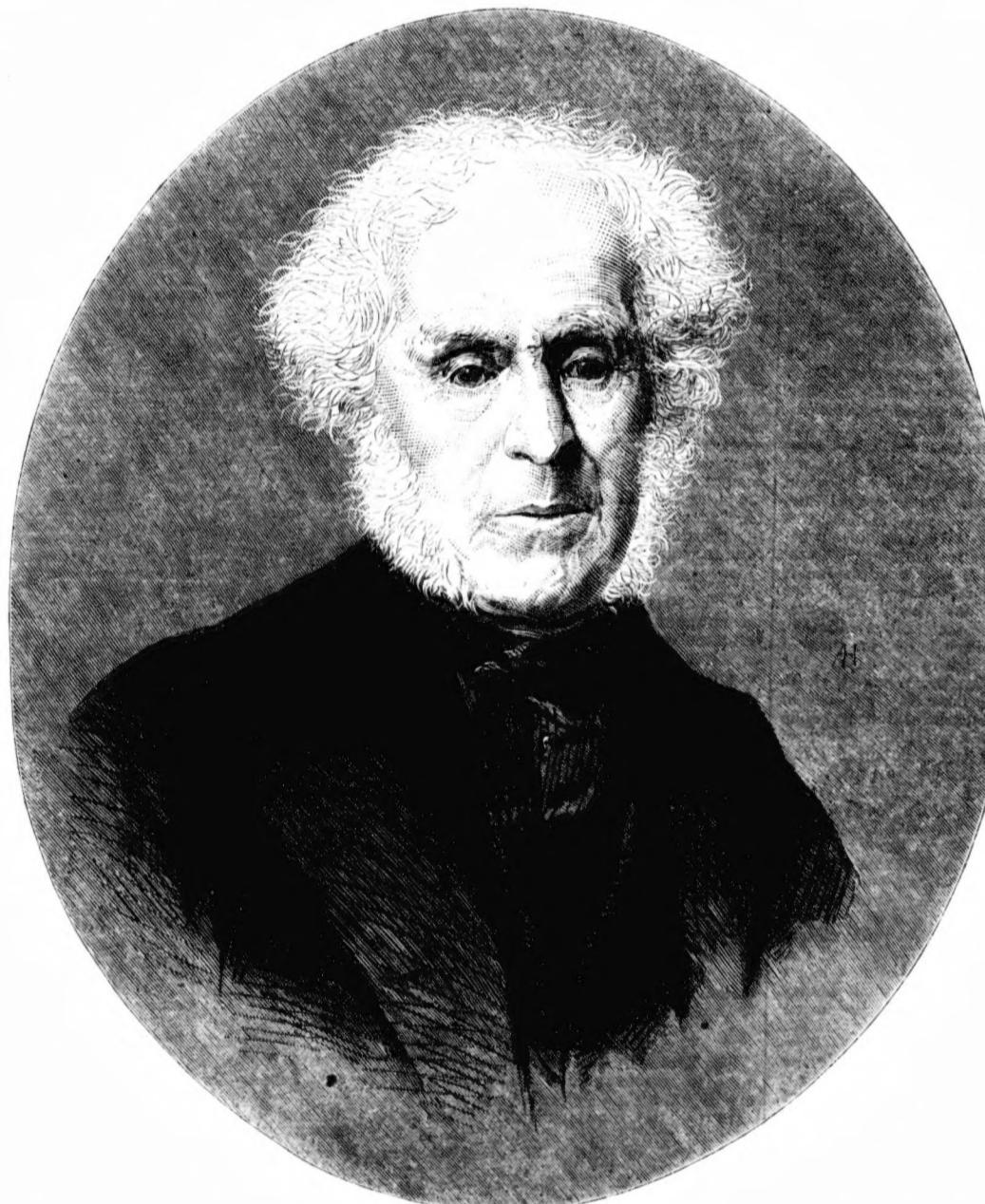
So much for the measures. As to the men, Earl Russell honestly hints that he has passed the age at which it might be possible for him to take in hand the reforms necessary to be introduced into Ireland. He has no want of faith in Mr. Disraeli, and reminds him that if he wishes to legislate for Ireland in a spirit of justice and liberality he may consistently do so, inasmuch as he himself pointed out the evils from which Ireland was and is still suffering, in a speech made as long ago as 1844. "A dense population in distress," said Mr. Disraeli, in that year, "inhabit an island where there is an Established Church which is not their Church, and a territorial aristocracy, the richest of whom live in distant capitals. Thus they have a starving population, an absentee aristocracy, and an alien Church; and, in addition, the weakest Executive in the world." What Mr. Disraeli advised as a cure for the evils and sufferings of Ireland was "a strong Executive, a just administration, and ecclesiastical equality."

However, it is (naturally) not in Mr. Disraeli that Earl Russell is inclined, above all, to put his trust. For the noble task of satisfying and pacifying Ireland, a man, he says, is required "endowed with the brilliant oratory of Canning and the sterling honesty of Althorp;" a man "not affected with the weakness of age, but vigorous with the strength of

manhood, having a seat in the House of Commons and possessing its confidence." And Earl Russell names Mr. Gladstone when he adds, "Whom Oxford, overflowing with bigotry, might reject, but whom Lancashire and his country would never fail."

SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

We last week recorded the decease of Sir David Brewster, one of the oldest of our scientific philosophers, who, born in the last century, has contributed largely to the record of the physical discoveries of the past sixty years: a man who, devoting himself from early life to investigations in the regions of experimental science, had earned the respect of his country, from which he obtained well-merited honour, as well as the recognition of scientific bodies all over Europe and beyond the Atlantic. He died on Monday, Feb. 10, at his seat, Allerley House, near Melrose. Sir David Brewster, D.C.L., LL.D., Knight of the Guelphic Order and of the United Kingdom, was born at Jedburgh, in Roxburghshire, on Dec. 11, 1781. His father was



THE LATE SIR DAVID BREWSTER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATKINS, PARLIAMENT-STREET.)

improved, pauperism and crime were on the decrease. Nevertheless, England had in past times misgoverned Ireland in a shameful manner, and by doing so had quite alienated the sympathies of the Irish—supposing for a moment that she had ever possessed them. Like the Parliamentary candidate from whose address we quoted above, Earl Russell regards the Irish Church and the Irish system of land tenure as the two great grievances actually to be dealt with. As regards the land question he would not, as Mr. Mill has recommended, aim at converting the farmer into a proprietor. "In Ireland," he says, "the small landowner would take advantage of his property to introduce numerous sons, sons-in-law, and brothers-in-law on his twenty acres, not one of whom would improve the land, not one of whom would maintain that degree of ease and comfort which bespeaks a happy, instructed, and contented people." What Earl Russell is strongly in favour of is a

Rector of the Grammar School in that town; and, being devoted himself to the Scottish Church, determined upon bringing his four sons up to be ministers of that establishment. Three of them entered the Church and obtained livings. Dr. Brewster, of Craig, and Dr. Brewster, of Scone, who were remarkable for their piety and their superior intelligence, have not been long deceased; Patrick, who ably filled the post of minister of the abbey church of Paisley, died in 1859. Sir David was his father's second son, and completed his studies, duly obtaining his license to preach; but the state of his health was urged by himself as a reason for giving up the Church, and refusing a living which was offered him by the Duke of Roxburgh. It seems, however, probable that his inclinations towards scientific inquiry, which he had commenced by experiments as early as 1799, had a considerable share in influencing his decision. His earliest investigations were on the inflection of light, and his success at the commencement was a stimulus to further effort, and led to his continued investigations in this domain of physics, which he afterwards so largely enriched. In 1806 he published an edition of "Ferguson's Lectures," with notes; and in the same year projected and commenced the "Edinburgh Encyclopaedia," which was completed in 1830 under his editorship. In 1807 the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D., which was followed later by an A.M. from Cambridge and the D.C.L. of Oxford. In 1808 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. At this time he was engaged in the study of optics, and in 1811, when writing for the "Edinburgh Encyclopaedia," he was led, by a suggestion of Buffon, to build a lens of zones of glass in such manner as to collect the rays of light and refract them into parallel beams. This plan has since been largely employed for lighthouses. In 1813 he published his "Treatise on New Philosophical Instruments," and continued from time to time to issue memoirs and papers upon optical subjects and questions connected with the constitution and properties of light. In 1815 he had the honour of receiving, from the hands of Sir Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society, the Copley medal for his discovery of the law of polarisation of light by reflection. Not long after he was elected a member of that learned body. In 1816 the French Institute awarded him half the 3000f. prize for the most important scientific discovery of the past two years. In 1819 Sir David Brewster, in connection with Professor Jameson, started the "Edinburgh Philosophical Journal," which was continued till 1824, and from that year was carried on by himself alone under the title of the "Edinburgh Journal of Science." In 1819 the Royal Society awarded him the Rumford and the Royal gold and silver medals for further discoveries in polarisation of light. The Royal Society of Edinburgh also twice awarded him the Keith prize for his discovery of two new fluids in minerals and for his analysis of solar light. It was in 1816 that he invented the kaleidoscope, for which he took out a patent; but this proved a very unprofitable investment, as it was impossible to sustain his claim against copyists. In 1825 the Institute of France elected him a corresponding member, and similar distinctions were sent him by the Royal Academies of Russia, Prussia, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, and Belgium. American scientific bodies also sought the honour of enrolling him among their foreign associates. In 1831 appeared his "Life of Sir Isaac Newton," and in the same year he largely assisted in realising, if he did not originally suggest, the formation of the British Association at York. In this year he received the Guelphic order, and in 1832 was knighted by his Majesty King William IV. In 1835 a "Life of Flamsteed" was published, and in this work appeared serious aspersions against Sir Isaac Newton. Brewster made every effort to obtain evidence to confute these statements, and to publish an enlarged edition of the Life of Newton. In 1837 the Hon. Newton Fellowes gave him permission to examine a large mass of papers which had belonged to and concerned Newton, and which were at Hursbourne Park. He went down and stayed a week there, being ably assisted by Mr. H. A. Fellowes, who copied out for him many of the papers. Some time after, Lord Portsmouth, at the request of Lord Brougham, sent all the papers to Sir David, they having been admirably arranged by Mr. H. A. Fellowes. At length, after much trouble, the letters of Flamsteed were obtained, and Newton was successfully cleared of the aspersions which had been cast upon him. The enlarged edition of Newton's life appeared in 1855. So recently as the last year Sir David had been again called upon as a veteran to combat for the shade of the departed philosopher, and events have proved that his judgment was correct concerning the curious forgeries of the correspondence between Newton and Pascal. In 1832 appeared his work on "Natural Magic;" and in that year, on the decease of Sir John Leslie, Brewster was appointed professor of natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; and the testimonies which, as a matter of form, he sent in as a candidate, form a remarkable collection. Among the names of those who sent him such letters are those of Sir John F. W. Herschel, Dr. Brinckley, Bishop of Cloyne; Dr. Lloyd, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. Whewell, G. B. Airy, Sir W. R. Hamilton, Lord Brougham, Lord Napier (president of the Astronomical Society), Sir G. Mackenzie, Jeffrey, John Dalton (Manchester), the Duke of Gordon, the Marquis of Tweeddale, Sir T. Brisbane (president of the Edinburgh Royal Society), Sir James South, and many others of note. In 1838 the Crown appointed him Principal of the United Colleges of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, St. Andrews. In the year 1849 on the decease of the great Berzelius, the Imperial Institute of France elected Sir David to fill the vacant place in the list of their foreign associates. The late King of Prussia also sent him the Order of Merit founded by Frederic the Great, and in 1855 Napoleon III appointed him an officer of the Legion of Honour. In 1859 he was unanimously elected Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and, after having been secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and vice-president for many years, he was elected its president in 1864. Sir David Brewster leaves behind him a monument in his published writings, which would fill a small library. His "Optics," published in the "Cabinet Cyclopaedia," is an admirable popularised treatise on a difficult subject. His "Natural Magic" was a companion volume to Sir W. Scott's "Demonology and Witchcraft," and, despite Sir David's skill, by no means explains the legends recounted in Sir Walter's book. It is to be regretted that Sir David, when he had the opportunity, should have refused to investigate phenomena, the first sight of which greatly astonished him, and concerning which he unfortunately was led to make contradictory statements. Besides his direct contributions to scientific knowledge, the biography of Sir Isaac Newton and the "Martyrs of Science" may be set down as in the domain of history. In 1854 he wrote, in reply to Whewell's odd speculation, entitled "The Plurality of Worlds," a short treatise, under the name "More Worlds than One, the Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian," the latter phrase touching on an issue which the philosopher of Cambridge had in no way raised. Be his faults, however, what they may, he has left behind him a name which England, and especially Scotland, who boasts him as her proper son, will delight to honour.

The funeral of Sir David Brewster took place last Saturday afternoon, the place of interment being Melrose Abbey burying-ground. The funeral left Allerley House, the residence of the deceased, about half-past twelve o'clock, the company being conveyed in five or six mourning-carriages. The hearse and all the accompaniments were of the simplest character, there being no attempt whatever at display. The hearse was drawn by four horses. On arriving at the entrance to Melrose, the procession received an accession from the town and county people, and at Buccleuch-street the members of the Senate of the University of Edinburgh and of the University Court, as also deputations from the Royal Society of Edinburgh and from the Galashiels Mechanics' Institution, joined the cortège. The Professors of the University wore their gowns and hoods, and they were preceded by the Janitor, with the mace, and two servitors. Sir David's carriage, which was closed and the blinds drawn, followed immediately after the hearse. On the arrival of the procession at the ancient cross of the town, the coffin was removed from the hearse and carried shoulder high along Abbey-street to the graveyard. The coffin bore the following inscription:—"David Brewster, died 10th

February, 1868, aged 87." The grave is on the south side of the abbey, outside the walls, and adjoining the family burying-ground of Sir Adam Ferguson. There was no funeral service at the grave, prayers having been offered up, according to the Presbyterian custom, in Allerley House, before the funeral, by the Rev. Mr. Cousin, of the Free Church. The shops in Melrose were shut during a considerable part of the day.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The debates in the Legislative Chamber on the Press Regulation Bill continue, and are as stormy as during last week. All the amendments proposed by the Opposition are rejected. M. Schneider, the President, is suffering from complete loss of voice, but his health is not seriously affected. Perhaps he has bawled himself hoarse in calling the unruly deputies to order.

M. Magne, the Minister of Finance, is said to have submitted to the Council of State the draught of a bill authorising the Suez Canal Company to add lottery drawings to their loan of 100,000,000f.; the prizes not to exceed each year 1 per cent of the borrowed capital.

The *Patrie* of Wednesday evening says General Menabrea has not directed the attention of the Court of the Tuilleries to the intrigues at the Farnese Palace at Rome. "The General well knows that the French Government have never ceased to discourage hopes and ambitions which late events may have awakened in the minds of the adherents of Francis II., and also to impress upon the Papal Government that it should carefully prevent all schemes and enterprises hostile to Italy.

The commercial treaty between France, Mecklenburg, and Prussia was ratified on the 15th.

ITALY.

The bill for the immediate construction of public works at the southern ports was voted, on Monday, in the Chamber of Deputies by 124 against 103. The report of the Committee on the Estimates of the Ministry of Public Works proposes a reduction of 368,500 lire, thus reducing the budget to 57,095,242 lire, or 23,444,226 less than the budget of 1867.

The *Official Gazette*, alluding to alarming rumours of disturbance in Sicily, says that, since some unimportant occurrences at Grotte and Vittoria, tranquillity had not been disturbed. There was no reason to anticipate any further disturbances, and the Government, determined to maintain the authority of the law, was watchful and prepared for every eventuality.

SPAIN.

The Carlist rising in Spain, which has been prophesied for some time past in some Continental journals, seems to have actually taken place. A Madrid telegram says that a Carlist band had made its appearance in Navarre. It only numbered some fifty men, and therefore was not in itself of much importance. But the fact is that the people, to a considerable extent, sympathise with the movement, and the band of fifty may soon become much larger.

PRUSSIA.

A good deal of excitement has been caused in Berlin by the movements of certain adherents of the ex-King of Hanover, some of whom had enrolled themselves into a legion which was said to intend taking service with France; while others had been found travelling with Austrian passports. Explanations on the subject are said to have been exchanged by the several Governments concerned.

At the sitting of the Upper House, on Tuesday, the bill for compensation to the deposed German Sovereigns came on for debate. Her von Brunneck asked whether the Government still adhered to its treaty with the ex-King of Hanover after the incidents that had occurred in connection with the Hanoverian legion. The Finance Minister replied in the affirmative. The Government had taken the intrigues alluded to into serious consideration. If, after the bill was passed into law and promulgated, King George continued to act in a spirit opposed to the treaty, the Government would attach his property, and not deliver up one thaler until it was convinced the treaty would be faithfully observed. The House then unanimously passed the bill. The bill relating to the establishment of a provincial fund for Hanover then came under discussion. The bill was supported by the Minister of Finance, and adopted by 127 against 14 votes in the form in which it passed the Lower House.

AUSTRIA.

On Tuesday the King of Hanover, who is now residing in Austria, gave a grand dinner in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his marriage. In proposing a toast on the occasion, his Majesty expressed his conviction that he should yet return to Hanover as an independent Sovereign, and concluded by drinking "Prosperity to Hanover—a speedy reunion in the land of the Guelphs."

BULGARIA.

The Eastern question is once more the engrossing European topic. There seems to be little doubt that Bulgaria, if not in active insurrection, is ripe for it. France is meddling in the matter, making representations to the Government of Servia, and aiming at Russia through these representations. Everything is put down to Russian intrigue; and the usual story when a revolt occurs, that designing foreigners have caused it, is openly stated. The Paris papers wax eloquent on the subject, and it is said that the Emperor would not be sorry to find employment for his chassepot against Russia.

CRETE.

A Paris paper publishes a letter from Crete, dated the 7th inst., which mentions three engagements between the insurgents and the Turkish troops, and in which the latter gained the advantage. The majority of the inhabitants of the island are said to be favourable to an understanding with Turkey.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Reconstruction Committee have refused by six against three votes to recommend the impeachment of President Johnson for opposing the Tenure of Office Bill.

In reply to the address of Mr. Thornton on presenting his credentials, Mr. Johnson said the Queen of England, more than any other Sovereign, enjoyed the respect and sympathy of the American people, and that her kind message encouraged him to hope for a speedy adjustment of the existing differences between the two Governments.

Congress has passed a bill authorising the Secretary of War to employ counsel to defend officers charged with the execution of the reconstruction laws against civil prosecution. The Financial Committee of the Senate has reported in favour of the consolidation of the public debt. The plan they suggest is a loan at 5 per cent to cover all the national obligations except Five per Cent. This loan, which is for forty years, is repayable at par in coin. The Government has the option of redeeming the loan in ten years. The House of Representatives has voted the restoration of the civil and political rights of ex-Confederate Governors Holden, of North Carolina, and Orr, of South Carolina; and General Longstreet. A resolution has been referred to the Committee for Foreign Affairs requesting the President to demand the release of Nagle and other American citizens arrested by the British authorities for words spoken and actions done in the United States, and, should the release be refused, to cease diplomatic intercourse with Great Britain.

The new State Constitution has been defeated in Alabama.

Advices from Canada announce that a motion has been made in the Nova Scotian Parliament that the province should withdraw from the Confederation.

MEXICO.

The New York papers publish advices from Vera Cruz to the 2nd inst., stating that the Yucatan rebels have been defeated. The forces of Juarez have occupied Merida. Generals Diaz and Escobedo have tendered the resignation of their military commands. It is reported that outbreaks have occurred at Colima and Sinaloa. The coffin bore the following inscription:—"David Brewster, died 10th

JAPAN.

News of a revolution in Japan is reported from New York. The daimios have revolted and made the Mikado prisoner, and the Shogun, whoever he may be, is preparing to attack the daimios. Towns and palaces have been burned. The foreign Ministers wisely refuse to interfere.

THE JUDGES AND ELECTION PETITIONS.

The following letter has been addressed by the Lord Chief Justice of England, on his own behalf and on behalf of the rest of the Judges, to the Lord Chancellor respecting the trial of election petitions:

Court of Queen's Bench, Feb. 6, 1868.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's note of the 31st ult., calling my attention to the bill "for amending the law relating to election petitions, and providing more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections," now pending in the House of Commons, and requesting me to consult the Judges as to "the best mode of providing assistance for the event of a general election and the influx of petitions which always follows." Since the receipt of your Lordship's communication I have procured a copy of the bill, and find that, according to its provisions, election petitions are in future to be presented in the Court of Queen's Bench, and, having been so presented, are to be tried by one of the Judges of the superior courts, without a jury, in the borough or county, as the case may be, to which the petition relates. In conformity with your Lordship's wishes I have consulted the Judges, and I am charged by them, one and all, to convey to you their strong and unanimous feeling of insuperable repugnance to having these new and objectionable duties thrust upon them. We are unanimously of opinion that the inevitable consequences of putting Judges to try election petitions will be to lower and degrade the judicial office, and to destroy, or at all events materially impair, the confidence of the public in the thorough impartiality and inflexible integrity of the Judges, when, in the course of their ordinary duties, political matters come incidentally before them. This confidence, which does so much to maintain the respect for the administration of justice, and to uphold the salutary influence of its ministers, has in great measure risen from the Judges being in no way mixed up with political matters, except when, as was just observed, such matters are unavoidably involved in ordinary trials. This confidence will speedily be destroyed, if, after the heat and excitement of a contested election, a Judge is to proceed to the scene of recent conflict, while men's passions are still roused, and, in the midst of eager and violent partisans, is to go into all the details of electioneering practices, and to decide on questions of general or individual corruption, not unfrequently supported or resisted by evidence of the most questionable character. The decision of the Judge given under such circumstances will too often fail to secure the respect which judicial decisions command on other occasions. Angry and excited partisans will not be unlikely to question the motives which have led to the judgment. Their sentiments may be echoed by the press. Such is the influence of party conflict, that it is apt to inspire distrust and dislike of whatever interferes with party objects and party triumphs. Can it be expected that, if brought into contact with these strong prejudices and passions, the judicial office will not suffer in the public esteem?—that its dignity will not be lowered, and the veneration which has hitherto attached to it be materially diminished? Would it be worth while to incur the danger of such a result for the sake of creating a more efficient tribunal for the trial of election petitions when this end can doubtless be obtained by less objectionable means? In the next place, it is to be observed that the functions which the Judges are called upon to discharge are altogether beyond the scope of the duties which on accepting the office of Judges we took on ourselves to fulfil. We are at a loss to see how Parliament can, with justice or propriety, impose on us labours wholly beyond the sphere of our Constitutional duties, and which no one ever contemplated the possibility of our being called upon to perform. I have further to point out that we are thoroughly satisfied that the proposed scheme is impracticable, and that the performance by the Judges of the onerous duties which this bill proposes to cast on them is neither more nor less than a sheer impossibility. The first business of the Judges is to perform those duties which by their oath of office they have bound themselves to discharge—namely, in their respective courts or on their circuits, to administer justice between the Crown and the subject, or between subject and subject. While this all-important duty remains to be done the Judges can postpone it to no other. The time of the Judges is known to be more than fully occupied. Attention has been of late directed towards devising means for relieving them from a portion of their labours, so as to enable them, without the addition of more Judges, to perform their more important duties without the delays which the accumulation of unavoidable arrears entails upon the suitors. Whether even this will be accomplished remains extremely doubtful. Can it be when under such circumstances to scatter the Judges over the country to try election petitions? We would venture to ask which court is to be suspended in order to furnish Judges even for occasional petitions, to say nothing of the trial of petitions after a general election, when, if any material portion of the work of trying petitions is to be done by the Judges, Westminster Hall would have to be shut up altogether? Assuming even that a Judge or two could be spared in time, which, however, could not be done without exceeding inconvenience, what is to be done after term? Are the sittings in error, or the post terminal sittings of the different courts, to be suspended, or the nisi prius trials to be put off? And what as regards the circuits? Is a Judge to set aside her Majesty's commission, and leave the gaols un-delivered and causes untried, while he is occupied in investigating the unclean doings of a corrupt borough? Your Lordship knows, from professional experience, as I do, the length of time the trial of an election petition, particularly if it involves a scrutiny, very often takes; and I perceive it is not only on questions affecting the seat of A. or B. that the Judges are to be required to adjudicate; but where petitions allege general corruption the Judges are equally to be called into requisition. We know, by recent experience, the length of time which these inquiries frequently occupy; so that if the Judges are to be engaged on them they will inevitably be withdrawn from their proper duties for considerable periods at a time. How can this possibly be consistent with the interest of the suitors or of the public? We entertain no doubt that the framers of the measure have had no other than the praiseworthy object of providing for the trial of election petitions a tribunal which should command general confidence; but we cannot but think that they must have overlooked the important considerations to which we have adverted. We trust it is not too late to call attention to them now. Your Lordship suggests that assistance should be obtained after a general election. But if this be contemplated as the proper course on such an occasion, why have recourse to the Judges at all? Why not employ those who would be resorted to on such an occasion on all others? The only quarter in which assistance could properly be sought will probably have already suggested itself to your own mind. Everyone knows that, owing to the accidents which determine professional success and business at the bar, there are always a certain number of counsel whose business is not proportioned to their known abilities and learning, and whose round judgment and judicial aptitude are recognised by the references which are frequently submitted to them as arbitrators. Many of these would probably be willing to undertake the employment in question, and it might safely and conveniently be intrusted to them, while to put such duties on the Judges would be a most fatal mistake. I will not longer detain your Lordship. I have only in conclusion to protest, in the name of all the Judges and my own, most earnestly and emphatically, against the proposed scheme as one which, besides being unconstitutional and unjust towards the Judges, is calculated to degrade the character of the Bench, to impair the confidence and esteem now happily entertained for the Judges, as well as their influence and utility, and most seriously to interfere with the administration of justice. We trust to your Lordship to convey our sentiments to the Government, and, if necessary, to the Legislature; and we hope we may confidently rely on your influence, as the head of the profession, to protect us if possible against this in every respect most objectionable measure.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. E. COCKBURN.
The Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor, &c.

A WILL was left a few days ago by the German Pastor Holzapfel, of Reinfritz. It consists of this one line only:—"My soul to God, my body to earth, my money to our deaf and dumb hospital." The property of the deceased amounts to about 70,000 florins.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE TUILLERIES.—Last Saturday, at about one o'clock, a well-dressed man, under thirty years of age, of gentlemanly appearance, walked under the arch in the Place du Carrillon, in the two niches of which there are sentries on horseback, as at the Horse Guards, climbed over the railings of the closed gates with extraordinary dexterity and agility, and ran across the spacious courtyard toward the private entrance to the Tuilleries, on the left-hand side, towards the Seine. The cavalry sentries, sitting solemnly on their horses and never expecting to be called upon for actual duty, did not know what he was doing. He was perceived from two guardhouses and pursued; but, having a great start, he got into the Tuilleries first. There he took the Cent Gardes on duty by surprise and dashed past him, saying he had come on urgent business. He got as far as the ante-room of the Emperor's study before he was arrested. Then he said, "I must speak to the ladies." He was lodged in a lock-up chamber at the corner of the palace, near the gate at the corner of the gardens surmounted by two lions. A magistrate was sent for to interrogate him; but he had not been in confinement more than a few minutes before he dashed himself against a window looking out upon the river, and fell through upon the quay. When taken up he was found to have a broken wrist and a badly lacerated forehead. The Emperor's house surgeon, Di Pietra Santa, examined him, and, after seeing in what a serious state he was, ordered him to be taken to the Charité Hospital, where he now is. The man is a German—whether a madman or an assassin is yet a question.

DEANS AND DEANS.

SINCERITY is the very soul of religion; but there is a right and a wrong, a wise and a foolish sincerity; and the contrast between them has just been put in the very strongest light by two Deans of the English Church. Side by side in the publications of the day we may study Christianity as Dean Close expounds it, and Christianity as Dean Stanley understands it. At an anti-Ritual meeting last week the dignitary of Carlisle delivered a fulmination against the Archbishop of Canterbury for addressing a polite letter to the Venerable Patriarch of Philaret, lately the head of the Greek Church. "I deny he had the right to do it," Dr. Close exclaimed; "the Greek Church is false and corrupt; unsound in her doctrine of the Trinity; debased, degraded, and superstitious in her worship. Sooner be my hand withered than that I should hold it out to the Eastern or the Western Churches." We would make every allowance for a Christian suffering, as the Dean was, from a bad fit of the gout; but, we must add, he went on to hope "that the Pope would nail Dr. Pusey's 'Eikonicon' on his church door, as farmers nail up weasels, rats, and other vermin." Now turn to the account which Dean Stanley has recently published of his visit to the good old Metropolitan of Moscow. It absolutely reads as if it were written in a different language! On his way, Dr. Stanley conversed upon various theological topics with a Russian General who accompanied him, and, among others, upon the difference between the morality of the Old Testament and that of the New. The soldier was puzzled at this—the English divine "ventured to suggest the principle of gradual and imperfect stages of revelation," as put forth in many passages of Scripture. It was agreed that the theme should be introduced in conversation with Philaret, whose kindly grave manner and wonderful sweetness of voice the Dean proceeds to describe. These two ecclesiastics—well worthy to be the representatives respectively of the sister Churches which between them interpret Heaven to 200,000,000 of mankind—discussed many questions of the day. We read how Philaret "spoke of the eccentricities of German Protestantism with a gentle regret;" how he said, "without acrimony," that Melanchthon would not know his own Church if he could return. Then the Russian General introduced the topic of the journey, and Philaret broke into an animated argument, in the course of which he quoted the very verses mentioned by Dean Stanley, and went on to say "that the expression 'sundry times and divers manners' clearly implied the principle of gradual and incomplete revelations, and that the Jews were young in morality, and therefore educated by striking and awful examples, which pass away in a fuller revelation." Strange, indeed, it must have been, as Dean Stanley remarks, to hear the great argument for which Arnold was so much assailed stated by the head of the old orthodox Church of the stationary East; yet the lesson and the contrast did not end with this most remarkable agreement. The Governor of Moscow was announced, and the conversation had to terminate; but, as the white-haired Philaret led his visitor to the porch, he whispered slowly, *Deus benedic tibi et ecclesie tue—The Lord bless thee and thy Church!*" And now let our clergy, and laity too, set these English Deans side by side, and ponder what the contrast signifies. They are men of equal moral character, although very unequal intellect; both are beyond all questioning for pure sincerity of mind; both high-placed teachers of one and the same testament of verity; and both speak for the Church of England. Yet one at a public meeting touches the verge of unbecoming violence against the Eastern communion in his sectarian ardour; and the other, the scholar, the traveller, the biographer and pupil of Arnold, stands with his hands locked in that of the aged Muscovite Archbishop, while blessings in stately Latin pass between them; because they know that God's children are many, and that His ways of teaching them are many also.—*Telegraph.*

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—LABOURS OF THE LETTER-CARRIERS.—Friday, Feb. 14, being St. Valentine's Day, as usual there was a vast increase in the delivery of letters. The first delivery (eight o'clock) commenced at an earlier hour, the number being so immense that supernumerary postmen had to be employed to assist the regular letter-carriers. This delivery was not completed until long after the ordinary time, and at eleven o'clock the letters that passed through the Post Office exceeded in number that of previous years. At mid-day substantial repasts were provided in the several districts for this overworked class.

FIRE AT CHARING-CROSS TERMINUS.—On Tuesday afternoon, about half-past one o'clock, the Customs warehouses on the arrival platform at the Charing-cross station of the South-Eastern Railway caught fire, it is supposed from a stove-pipe in one of the offices. Almost immediately the whole of the Customs offices, which were entirely constructed of wood and canvas, burst into flame. Prompt measures were taken to flood the bridge, which was thus preserved; but in the Customs offices it was impossible to check the flames, which ultimately caught the roof of the station. Here the fire brigade attacked the fire, and in the course of an hour had the mastery. The roof is seriously damaged, but the traffic, which was suspended during the afternoon, was resumed at night so far as to admit of the departure of the Continental mail.

THE FENIANS.—At the examination of the Clerkenwell prisoners, on Tuesday, Allen was discharged on the recommendation of the counsel for the Crown. It appears that some time before the explosion Allen had warned the police of a plot hatching for the release of Casey and Burke. His information as to the details of the plot was not correct, but it is supposed he told all he knew. A tacit understanding between him and the police that he should watch all the persons who visited the prisoners, accounted for his presence near the House of Detention when the barrel was fired. The explosion is supposed to have taken him by surprise as much as it did its victims. It was a little odd, the counsel said, that Allen should run away with Anne Justice instead of trying to detain her; but some allowance must be made for the want of self-possession natural to every man at such a moment. The same excuse, we suppose, must serve for the police, who, though Allen had been their tool, suffered the Coroner's jury to find a verdict of wilful murder against him. When Allen stepped out of the dock, Anne Justice, recovering for a moment from the torpor that generally seems to take possession of her, cried, with feverish energy, "All that man says is lies;" and on her removal from the court she had a violent fit of hysterics. Another remand was granted to enable Mr. Lewis to call witnesses for O'Neill. Allen was afterwards re-arrested, in order to be formally tried on the Coroner's inquisition.—Patrick Lennon, convicted of treason-felony at the Dublin Assizes, has been sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude. On sentence being pronounced, he consoled himself with the expectation that the English Government of Ireland would be upset before that period had expired; and avowed that, if he was set free, he would again join the Fenian conspiracy. Mr. A. M. Sullivan, of the *Weekly News*, and Mr. Pigott, of the *Irishman*, have both been found guilty of seditionable libel.

Mrs. PEABODY'S GIFT TO THE POOR OF LONDON.—From the annual statement of the trustees for the year 1867 we learn that the original fund has been increased by rents and interest on unexpired capital to the extent of £20,042 6s. 4d., making the sum total, at the end of December, 1867, £170,042 6s. 4d. The buildings at Spitalfields and Islington continue fully occupied, with increasing demand in anticipation of vacancies. At Shadwell, the four ranges of buildings forming Peabody-square, and containing 155 tenements, were completed and ready for occupation at the close of the year 1866; but, owing to the depression of business and the consequent suspension of employment in that part of London, they have been somewhat slow in filling. At the commencement of the present year 175 families were resident, and the number is gradually increasing. The total population in all the buildings erected by the trustees is 1583. The cost of land and buildings was £27,215 11s. 3d., the gross rents from which for the year amounted to £1050 11s. 8d.; and, after deducting £359 18s. 10d. for working expenses, insurance, taxes, alterations, and repairs, there remains a net return of £699 12s. 10d. At Islington the amount invested in land and buildings is £40,397 2s. 1d., and the gross rents for the year were £1699 7s. 5d.; deducting £699 13s. for working expenses, taxes, insurance, alterations, and repairs, there remains a net return of £999 11s. 5d. The investment in land and buildings at Shadwell is £14,972 3s. 1d., and the gross amount of rents was £1288 13s. 5d. (the dwellings being but partially occupied); and after deducting £10,17s. 9d. for working expenses, insurance, taxes, alterations, improvements, and repairs, there remains a net return of £447 15s. 8d. The expenses for the past year were much increased by causes not likely to occur again, a large portion being for repairs to water-pipes, seriously damaged by frost, and for alterations and improvements suggested by experience after the completion of the buildings. The trustees, in addition to their sites at Chelsea and Bermondsey, not yet built upon, are negotiating for the purchase of another at Westminster. According to the intention of Mr. Peabody, the second donation of £100,000 will be available for the objects of the trust in July, 1869. Mr. Peabody, in placing the latter amount in the hands of the trustees, has enlarged the sphere of its usefulness, and enabled them to possess sites and to build thereon at any place accessible by railways within ten miles of the Royal Exchange. The cost of the general management of the trust during the year was, including salaries, printing, stationery, &c., £268 10s. 4d.

SCHOOLS OF ART.

THE Committee of Council on Education have just revised the grants to schools of art and the teaching in night classes, with the view of ameliorating the conditions which were established after the publication of the last report of the House of Commons in 1864. The changes are explained in the following memorandum and extracts from the accompanying letter.

The letter explains that:—

"1. As respects free studentships. The committee of the school will be free to recommend as many artisans as they may think eligible, and as are willing to attend and work attentively for the year, for which the fee will be paid by the department in advance. The numbers appointed will depend upon the evidences of competency sent up to the examiners of the department, and it is expected that the masters will endeavour to use these studentships as a means of carrying further the instruction of the advanced students, especially of such as are engaged in the local manufactures.

"2. It is intended by the changes in the payment for art pupil-teachers to give every school of art, fairly within the meaning of that term, an opportunity of appointing at least one art pupil-teacher, who may relieve the master of certain details of management, and thus give him more time for actual instruction, and who may assist him or occasionally act as his deputy; but it is not expected that these pupil-teachers should be permanently appointed as teachers unless they should become qualified by taking a certificate of the third grade.

"3. Under clause 3 every artisan taught by the use of sound examples will obtain a payment for the funds of the school, greater or less, according to the amount and quality of his works.

"4. As respects the bonuses of from £10 to £50 offered to masters. These are intended to promote the maintenance of a sound system of instruction throughout the schools, and will be awarded on the evidences of success furnished by the annual examinations of works and students.

"5. It is hoped that this extension of the aid hitherto given will enable masters to obtain through the local committees such renewal or increase of sound examples as may render the schools thoroughly efficient in this respect.

"6. As regards the masters' visits to the metropolis. These visits, which have ceased since 1862, are now revived, in the expectation that the masters will use the opportunity afforded to them to become acquainted with the resources of the South Kensington Museum and Art-Library, and make them of greater use to their schools under the system of loans.

"The masters of schools of art are urged to encourage the teaching of drawing in elementary schools and night schools, and to maintain friendly relations with the managers and teachers of them, in order that students when competent may pass from these elementary classes into the schools of art. These latter may thus by degrees obtain in the public estimation that position which can only be based on the existence of a large number of persons possessing elementary art-knowledge, from among whom can be drawn students prepared for the higher teaching which is afforded in schools of art.

MEMORANDUM.

"The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, having had under consideration the existing regulations for affording aid to schools of art, have authorised the following additional payments:—

"1. With a view to encourage advanced students to attend in larger numbers and to remain longer in the schools of art, a payment of £3 on account of free studentships for every artisan, being a draughtsman, designer, modeller, or handicraftsman, who shall submit satisfactory advanced works under the regulations in the directory, and who shall be recommended jointly by the local committee and by the department's examiners. Students on whose account these payments are made must be prepared to attend regularly for the year following the date of appointment, and must be admitted to study in the school without payment of fees.

"2. An addition of £5 to the sum allowed for an art pupil-teacher. In schools where twenty artisans are satisfactorily taught, one pupil-teacher will be allowed, and two pupil-teachers in schools where fifty artisans or upwards are satisfactorily taught. The payment in any school on account of pupil-teachers will therefore in future be either £15 or £30.

"3. In addition to the payments of 15s. or 20s. on account of artisans who submit satisfactory works under the regulations, a proportional payment will be made on account of artisans whose works do not reach the standard required for full payments.

"4. Bonuses will be awarded to the head masters of the schools of art in which the results as tested by the examinations of the department shall be most satisfactory. The basis of the awards will be the general amount of satisfactory work as tested by examinations, considered with reference to the number of students under instruction.

"The awards will consist of one sum of £50, three sums of £40, five sums of £30, ten sums of £20, and twenty sums of £10.

"5. In order that the committees of schools of art, night classes, and elementary schools may more readily provide themselves with approved examples, the aid given towards the purchase of them will be increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent; and in special cases, where buildings or rooms are permanently and entirely devoted to instruction in art, this aid will be extended to the provision of apparatus and fittings.

"6. In schools of art, where artisans are satisfactorily instructed, grants will be made to enable the masters to visit the South Kensington Museum and other metropolitan institutions, in order that they may acquire, for the benefit of their students, a knowledge of the latest progress made in those educational subjects which affect the schools.

"7. Special grants of the works published under the sanction of the department, and of other examples, will be made from time to time to such schools as have suitable premises for exhibiting and protecting them, and for their effective use as means of instruction."

THE FASHIONS.

WALKING AND EVENING DRESS.

THE most interesting intelligence that can be offered to the fair readers of our columns at the present season is that which relates to the style and fashion of ball and evening dresses, for the wintry winds continue to blow, and we are not yet even on the edge of spring, to judge from outer appearances, so that an adaptation of the fashions of the past month is all that can be required. That, at least, would be the opinion of those of our readers who, like Mrs. Gilpin of famous memory, are in possession of "a frugal mind." These adaptations, however, are in themselves sufficient to make almost a new mode, and we at once proceed to describe some of the changes which characterise this demi-winter season of the year.

A very pretty ball-dress for a young lady was composed of white tulle, trimmed with lilies of the valley, the bodice puffed, and having a small wreath of the flowers laid on to simulate a corslet. The first skirt is long, and edged with nine tiny flounces, or with puffs; the second, looped with a wreath on each side, terminates behind in two points, which fall over a second tunic, also pointed; the tunics are edged with white satin piping and blonde.

A ball-dress for a lady, which we thought effective, was a mixture of tulle and gauze in alternate puffs on the bodice, terminated on the shoulder by a tuft of roses. On the left was fastened a sash of rose-coloured ribbon, the ends of which, falling one over the front and the other over the back of a tulle skirt, were knotted on the right side, raising the jupe and revealing a skirt of gauze edged with trimmings of blonde and gauze.

We have described these toilets not merely on account of their very pretty appearance, but because their combinations give us a general notion of the style of ball-dress now worn. On examination of many of the most distinguished toilets, we find that several skirts are placed one over another, that gauze and tulle are mingled, that long wide sashes are worn, and always knotted behind or on

each side. Many of these sashes have the proportions of a scarf and are of the most bizarre patterns, and so fashionable are they that they are worn with high bodies, and even with walking dress. In the under skirts to be worn by young ladies with these toilets, white foulard is much used, and is found most economical and elegant.

Satin jupes, covered with crêpe or tulle, form a combination at once elegant and costly. A white satin jupe has a tulle skirt, ruched at the edge, each ruche surmounted by a band of white satin; a white satin sash knotted low on the skirt behind slightly raises the upper jupe, forming festoons.

Lace is used on robes of satin or poult-de-soie, to simulate a tunic. A robe of straw-coloured satin thus ornamented with black lace had a charming effect.

Satin is not worn by young ladies except as a trimming. Chambery gauzes are very pretty thus ornamented. Organdies, coloured tarlatans, and tafetas are the materials most adopted for juvenile evening dress. Indian necklaces, composed of many rows of pearls, or of filigree gold or silver, are very much worn, either with ball or high-bodied dresses. The first row is placed close to the throat, the second lower, and so on sometimes even below the waist; it is not, however, usual to wear the collier so low as this.

We must not omit to mention, before leaving the subject of ball-dresses, that the newest trimming for this style of toilet is fur. It is used on velvet or satin. Thus a robe of jonquil satin had a trimming of sable; this was worn by an elderly lady; for a younger toilet swansdown or chinchilla would be substituted. This is again a return to the style of the *moyen age*; some of the toilets bear great resemblance to those in the portrait gallery at Versailles.

Bonnet continues to be the name given to the head-dresses still in vogue. Coiffures of this kind were worn under Louis XV. and Louis XVI. Puffs of ribbons, or velvets, knobs of flowers and jewellery, over which a mantilla veil or lace hood was gracefully thrown, then attracted the admiration of the elegantes of fashion. The new veils are almost copies of the coquettish headgears of that age. Tulle, crystallised in every shade, will be one of the materials for spring bonnets; awaiting that genial season, we may content ourselves by describing one or two suitable for present wear. A chapeau of grey velvet, with blonde barbes of the same shade; on the side a crystal rose with metallic foliage; bandeau of leaves and crystal flowers. Chapeau of turquoise blue velvet, with white blonde barbes and velvet strings; the bandeau was composed of pearl leaves, blonde shells, and pearl narcissus.

THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER.

As a sort of addendum to our Illustrations of the French Legislative Chamber and its appurtenances we this week publish an Engraving showing M. Rouher in the act of addressing the deputies on the Press Bill. M. Rouher, as our readers know, is the principal mouth-piece of the Government in the Chambers, and on his shoulders rests the weight of the burden of defending all official acts and measures. He is considered a skilful debater, though not, perhaps, so brilliant an orator as his predecessor, the late M. Billault, or as several of the deputies against whom he is pitted. In fact, it requires no small capacity to be able to hold one's own in discussion against such opponents as MM. Berryer, Thiers, Jules Favre, Pelletan, and the other members of the small but able Opposition; and that M. Rouher does so with a fair degree of success may be regarded as strong evidence of talent and readiness.

In the course of the debate on the Press Regulation Bill several rather tumultuous scenes have occurred. On one occasion M. Latour du Moulin made a telling speech against one of the many restrictions on the press. M. Mathieu, who followed on the Government side, had no better answer than a personal allusion to M. Latour du Moulin; whereupon the latter retorted by a personal allusion to M. Mathieu. "I do not make a display of my Liberalism," replied M. Mathieu. "I do not discuss your Liberalism—I believe I have given proof of more than you," exclaimed M. Latour du Moulin (noisy declamations). The President—"I beg you to avoid these personalities, which only disturb the discussion." M. Latour du Moulin—"It was not I who first entered on this ground, I was attacked, and I defend myself." On another day, M. Berryer, the *honos et decus* of the French Bar, supported an amendment to the effect that the Judges of the correctional police court, to whom the trial of press offences is committed, should be annually drawn by lot, instead of being selected by the Minister of Justice and the public prosecutor. He dwelt on the obvious fact that, without in any way impugning the rectitude of these subaltern Judges, yet they were but human, and could not but be influenced by the consideration that their promotion to a higher and better remunerated post on the judicial bench depended on the Government exclusively. He further instanced the fact that from 1859 to the present day the presidents of the courts had been rewarded by speedy promotion as soon as their year's service in the correctional court was over. M. Berryer's plain speaking led to tremendous uproar. He said:—

I did not suppose that my proposition could be regarded as an attack on the dignity of the Bench. I only asked why any change had been made in the legislation of 1829, sanctioned by an experience of forty years. My respect for the Judges is very great, for I say nothing of what you do every year to recompense the special services you expect from them (*Murmure*). M. Baroche—I beg M. Berryer, if he has any facts to cite, to state them, and explain himself immediately (*Hear, hear*).

M. Berryer—Well, then, I will cite some facts without mentioning names. There are three chambers of correctional police in Paris, but press offences are almost always tried in the sixth. The Judge who presided over that court in 1855 was named judge of a superior court in 1860; the president of 1860 obtained the same distinction; the Judge of 1861 was advanced in 1862; he of 1862 in 1863, and so on in regular succession to the year 1867. We are now waiting to learn the fate of the functionary who presides at this moment (Great agitation, with applause on the left).

M. Baroche—The Judges designated by M. Berryer had all, or nearly all, tried causes in the sixth chamber before the Imperial letter of Jan. 19, 1867—that is to say, during a period when there were but very few press offences in the course of the year.

M. Berryer—Ah! you said just the contrary the other day, in your statistics! (*Noise*)

M. Baroche—The eminent men in question were not pointed out to me by the Chief of the State on account of anything disreputable, but for personal services of old date; and it is not perhaps becoming in M. Berryer, when he declines to give names, to designate individuals in the way he has done (Applause).

M. Berryer—But you yourself asked me to designate them.

M. Baroche—In my place you would have acted as I have done. Had any one cast a slur on certain functionaries you would have demanded the names.

M. Glais-Bizoin—Will you have the names? (Noise, cries of "Order, order!")

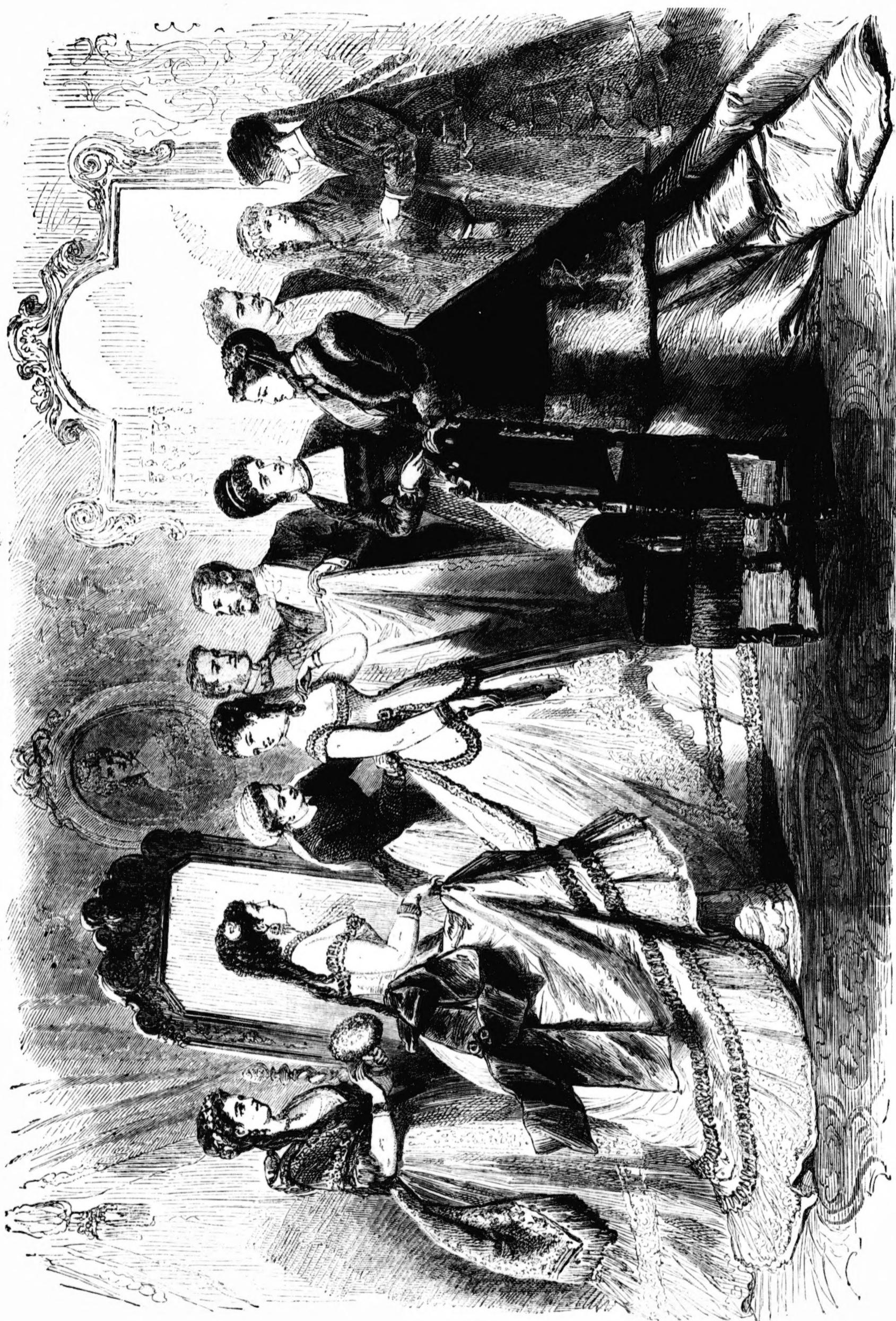
M. Baroche—It is odious to endeavour so unjustly to stigmatise the French Bench. I again affirm that all those functionaries deserved their advancement (Applause). At all periods French Judges have done honour to their country (Renewed approbation). I repeat that at the period indicated there were very few political trials.

M. Pelletan—You yourself cited more than thirty (Noise).

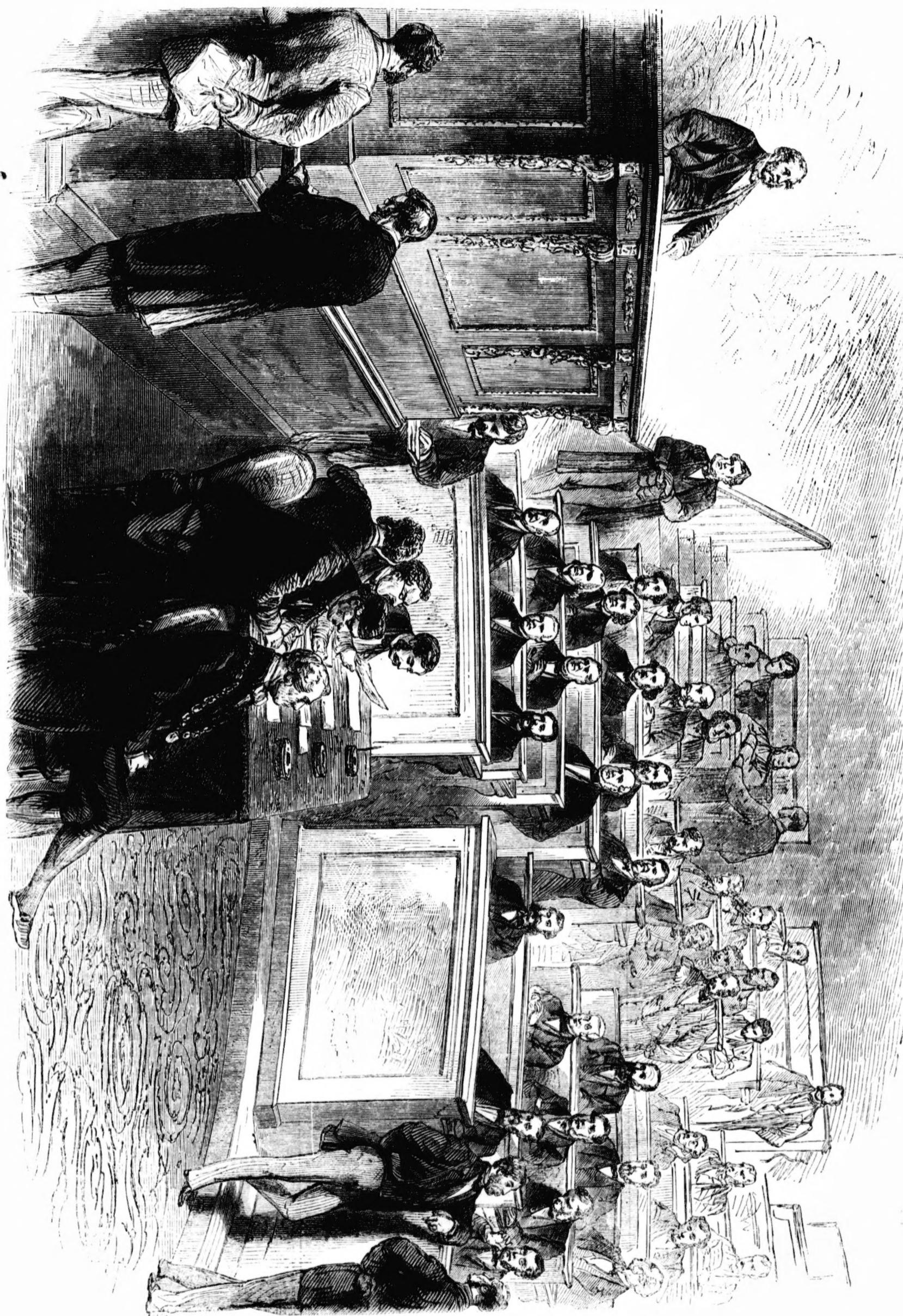
The President—I shall really be obliged to call interrupters to order. I will first remind them of what is due to their own dignity.

M. Pelletan—You are not the judge of that (Order, order).

The



PARIS FASHIONS : EVENING AND BALL DRESSES.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 321.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the House of Commons adjourned to Feb. 13; and on Thursday, Feb. 13, at a quarter to four, it accordingly assembled again. Somehow, a considerable number of her Majesty's lieges had got it into their heads that Parliament would on that day be formally opened and that her Majesty would open it in person; and so, when we went down, we found the pavement opposite Old Palace-yard and far up Parliament-street lined with people come to see the Queen; and, on inquiry, we found that most of them had been there ever since twelve o'clock. Poor things! if they had been in the habit of reading the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*, they would have learned that Parliament was opened and the Session was begun in November. But perhaps they needed not our pity; for did they not see the new palisading and the splendid lamps all blazing with gold, and the Parliamentary swells as they arrived in carriages, or in cabs, or on foot, and disappeared through the doorway of Westminster Hall? And they were not wanting in amateur guides to point out the distinguished legislators. For lounging about the Houses there are always people who know, or profess to know, all the more celebrated members. "That's Disraeli," some one of these would say; "and that's Bright, and that's Gladstone," and straightway the information would run along the ranks like a telegraphic message. Perhaps most of the crowd would mistake one for the other, and go home, and describe to envying neighbours Bright as a man with corkscrew curls, Disraeli as having a broad face, like a full moon, and Gladstone as bearded and moustached. Perhaps they saw neither one nor the other. But what matter? they thought they did, and the pleasure was the same. It is curious how little the British public knows about the rules, customs, and practice of the British Parliament. A dozen times at least we have been asked by people in a much higher position than these sightseers whether the Queen would open Parliament; and on Wednesday, the day before Parliament met, even a member asked us, "Does the Queen come to-morrow?"

NEW VALHALLA.

We notice as we enter Westminster Hall that Lord John Manners, our Commissioner of Works and Buildings, is making the noble hall of Rufus a pantheon, or valhalla of our national deities, or Kings by right Divine. Some years ago a number of statues of English Kings were ordered for the Royal gallery at the back of the House of Peers. When, however, these were delivered, they were found to be too large, or in some other way unsuitable for the place. They were therefore stowed away in a vault, and there they have lain prostrate in the dark as so much lumber ever since. When his Lordship took office an idea came into his fecund brain that these statues, having cost so much, ought to be utilised, and promptly he had them dragged into the light, washed and retouched, and placed here. There are seven of them—to wit, James I., Charles I., Charles II., James II., William III., George IV., and William IV. They are placed near the members' private entrance—some on one side, some on the other—on wooden pedestals painted to imitate marble, experimentally, that his Lordship and other cognoscenti of the artistic kind may judge of the effect. Our opinion, if that were worth anything, would be promptly and decisively in favour of sending them back to the cellar again. They are not good, these statues. There is no life in them, nor are they at all appropriate to this ancient hall—nor, indeed, would any modern statues be. In this hall the old Plantagenet Kings used to meet their Barons, and what have our Charleses, and Jameses, and Georges, however sacred, to do here? They are intruders, impertinences, disturbing our associations. It is said that every building has its key-note, and that when a tone is struck out of harmony with that note the very walls vibrate. Surely a Charles II. and a George IV. must indeed grate harsh discord here. If this is to be our valhalla, let us have in it our really great men; Simon De Montfort, for instance, who, as history tells us, first summoned burgesses to Parliament, Edward I., who followed De Montfort's precedent, "because," as he said, "there is nothing more just than that what concerns all should be authorised by all." Then there is Sir Thomas More, whose name Lord Robert may have heard. Nor would one object to see Wolsey here, as an historic character of name and fame and of great abilities. William Cecil, too, first Lord Burleigh. If his Lordship has read "Froude's History of the Reign of Elizabeth," he cannot have failed to discover that this great man was really a King, though uncrowned, and that but for him our history might have been all different to what is seen. Cromwell is, we know, a name not to be mentioned to ears polite, *at present*, and therefore we will not suggest him. In short, there is no lack of worthies in our history; and if we are to have the old hall covered with statues, let them be men whom we can look at with reverence, and not these. Better, your Lordship, return them all, except Dutch William, to the coal-cellars.

A SURVEY.

Once more we are inside the House, with everything around us just as it was when we left it last, with hardly a shade of difference; none, indeed, except that which Time produces, and his work is so silently and gradually done that from Session to Session we can scarcely see its effects. If we look back a dozen years, or more, and call to mind how these gentlemen looked then, Time's work is very perceptible upon most of them; and, moreover, we miss many a face which then seemed essential to the House of Commons—part of the very building, like a portrait on a panel. One of those old faces has vanished since last we met. In November, if we remember rightly, old Colonel Lowther was more than once in his place. He could hardly crawl then; but he certainly was there. He was the father of the House, having succeeded to that honorary distinction when Palmerston died. But inexorable death has seized upon him at last. He sat for Westmorland from 1812 to 1867—fifty-five years—and for thirty-five years never had a contest. Who, indeed, would dare to oppose a Lowther in Westmorland? Oldfield in his "Representative History," published fifty years ago, tells us that this county is as much under the command of an individual as the most rotten borough in the kingdom, and that, though it has returned knights from the reign of Edward I., there are only two records of petitions to be found, and they were both withdrawn. Of course, the new member is a Lowther; he is a near relative of the late Colonel. One wonders whether the Reform Act will shake the power of this family. We fancy not. We have travelled much in Westmorland, and from what we learned there we came to think that the power of the Lowthers is wellnigh as firmly fixed as the Westmorland mountains. The father of the House is now Lord Hotham. He entered Parliament in 1820. We have noticed above the silent and gradual operations of Time. Here is an example. The noble Lord is in his seventy-fourth year, but he is as erect as he was when he marched with his regiment of Guards at Waterloo; and to see him run when a division is called you would not deem him to be more than fifty. And how silently, and almost imperceptibly, the artist Time is laying on his shades! By an effort of imagination we have called up before our mind's eye his Lordship as he was twelve years ago, and we can discern but little change. Old *Tempus edax*, though, does not deal with all as he has dealt with Lord Hotham. Where are now "Dizzy's corkscrew curls," celebrated in song only about eight or nine years ago, in a clever parody on Gladstone's translation of the famous dialogue between Horace and Lydia? We will give the verse. The dialogue is between Derby and Gladstone, and it is Derby now speaking:—

My heart from Peele-love's entworn,
By Dizzy's corkscrew curls is drawn;
My forfeit-life I'll freely give,
So Dizzy better life may live.

Where are those corkscrew curls? Gone. *Tempus edax* has quite obliterated them, or rather straightened them into slightly wavy locks. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer looks well, and is all himself—quite up to the mark—as we shall soon have to show. Next in order comes Gladstone; and of him, too, we may report that he is evidently in vigorous health. In 1866, worried and per-

plexed by Tory Philistines in his front, and perfidious Adullamites on his flank, and on all hands vexed with the contradictions of political sinners, his face was ploughed with anxieties, and he looked at times, as one said, as miserable as a moulting fowl. But all that has passed away, and now, to continue our friend's metaphor, he is again in full feather. Nature never made a countenance more sensitive, more perfectly an index and outward and visible sign of the inward emotions of the mind, than Gladstone's. He can no more hide his feelings than he can suppress his thoughts. His is, indeed, a most expressive face, and when lighted up, as it always is when speaking with animation, or even when at rest in calm serenity, a handsome face, if beauty of countenance consisteth as much in expression as in correctness of features, as many hold it does. Sometimes, when we have looked at him when he was in one of his best moods, and remembered the faults and mistakes alleged against him, we have been ready to apply to him the words of Pope, slightly altered—

If to his share some trifling errors fall,
Look on his face, and you'll forget them all.

Mr. Bright is evidently in good health and spirits. In good spirits he may well be, for never did he occupy so grand and lofty a position as he does now. Long ago he conquered for himself the position of one of our greatest living orators; and now, his old enemies being witnesses, he is a great statesman; for have they not borrowed, and adopted, and carried out, one by one, most of his projects? "Conqueror!" said one. "He is, Sir, more than a conqueror; for not only is he victorious over his foes, but he has compelled them to be his allies." In appearance the great Tribune of the people is much the same as he has been for many years. He is verging towards sixty—in his fifty-seventh year, we believe; but there is upon him no apparent projected shadow of old age. He is still strong, active, vigorous; and Time as yet has written no wrinkles on his brow. Mr. John Stuart Mill, who did not show in November, is now here, fresh from his retreat in France, where he has been writing a pamphlet on Irish wrongs, and is evidently quite up to his prospective work.

DISRAELI AND THE JUDGES.

We have left ourselves little room to describe what the House has done, but there is enough; for, in truth, it has done but little. Disraeli may be said to have opened the ball with that remarkable and characteristic speech of his on the introduction of his bill for amending the law relating to election petitions, &c. In this speech the Chancellor of the Exchequer displayed most of his peculiar qualities—his command of language, his nice perception of the force of words. Disraeli's words are always fitly chosen. He may, perhaps, as all Ministers do, select an unfit man for a place, but he never selects an unfit word. Then, when he is quite up to the mark, how admirably are his sentences constructed! No more artistic joinery was ever seen than that which Disraeli's sentences exhibit. Then in this speech there was at times the same half-serious, half-mocking tone that we have so often observed. When he was speaking so reverently of the Judges, was he serious or satirical? Until he got to the end of the sentence we thought him serious, but the finish threw a tone of mockery over the whole. We will give this sentence, and let our readers judge. The Chancellor of the Exchequer wished to place the duty of trying election petitions upon the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench. Their Lordships unanimously objected; practically refused to take it; upon which refusal Disraeli thus spoke:—

I know not what the House may feel under these circumstances, but I must say on the part of the Government that, having given this expression of opinion our most anxious consideration, we have not felt it our duty to advise the House of Commons to thrust these duties upon the Judges of the land, and thus to place themselves, I won't say in collision with, but in painful relations to a body so exalted and so much entitled to our reverence and respect. I confess, for myself, that, when I remember this is a body of men disciplined and practised in the formation of just opinions from multifarious circumstances, I would not presume to maintain my opinion, though it might be contrary to theirs, upon such a subject. The idea has never for a moment been permitted to cross our minds that those who have arrived at what I am sure is a sincere and solemn conviction have been in any degree influenced by personal considerations, although the highest authority has told us that even those who reside in Olympian dwellings are still not superior to the infirmities of human nature.

HUMAN NATURE.

We will just notice one incident, and then close for the week. There came to the House on Friday what seemed to be an authentic report of the death of Sir William Shee, one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, and it came with such an air of authority that everybody believed it. Now, what do our readers think was the predominant feeling when the news came? Regret for Sir William? Compassion for his family? Not a bit of it. We heard no expression of regret—no sigh of pity. But, as members heard the news, from one and all there came such remarks as these:—"Shee dead! why, there is another Judgeship vacant. What lucky fellows these men are!" or "Is it true? then I suppose Brett will go to the Bench. I wonder who will be Solicitor-General? Will it be Huddlestane or Baggally?" Another would suggest that Sir John Karslake would take the Judgeship; and so on, and so on; and all the while not the faintest sigh was breathed for poor Sir William. And wasn't there a flutter among the lawyers! We know at least half a dozen heads that lay sleepless and uneasy that night upon their pillows, nursing hopes, planning schemes, and building splendid castles in the air.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a few minutes only, and the business done was of a purely routine character.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COMPOUND HOUSEHOLDERS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying to the inquiry of Mr. Sandford as to whether it was intended by the Government to bring in a measure for relieving compound householders from the personal payment of rates, reminded hon. gentlemen that in the Parliamentary boroughs there were now no compound householders, and that the alteration in the position of that class of occupiers effected by the new Reform Act had been carried unanimously by the House. That Act, so far as the compound householder was concerned, came into operation on Sept. 29 last, and, generally speaking, only one rate had been levied in the interval that had since elapsed. It must be obvious, therefore, that experience on the subject was limited, and that her Majesty's Government were hardly in a position, nor would it be seemly in them, to impugn a decision which had been unanimously arrived at by the House.

EDUCATION.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to Mr. W. E. Forster, said that it was the intention of the Government to introduce a measure on the subject of the elementary education of the children of the labouring classes in the course of the present Session.

Mr. WALPOLE, in moving the second reading of the Public Schools Bill, explained that its object was to carry into effect the recommendation contained in the report of the Royal Commission, in the manner and after the example in which the Universities had been dealt with when similar reports had preceded the measures passed with reference to them. The bill affected the seven schools of Winchester, Eton, Shrewsbury, Westminster, Rugby, Harrow, and the Charterhouse; and its provisions were substantially the same as those of the measure which was sent down from the House of Lords last year.

After some debate, the bill was read the second time.

HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION (IRELAND) BILL.

The Earl of MAYO moved for leave to introduce a bill to renew for one year the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Bill, and in so doing declared that it was the earnest conviction of the Government that it was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the peace in the sister country to frustrate and endeavour to destroy the efforts of the Fenian conspiracy. After some remarks from Mr. BAGWELL, leave was given to bring in the bill.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of AIRLIE asked whether any steps had been taken to provide floating batteries for the defence of our ports.

The Earl of LONGFORD's reply was, in effect, that there was no money available for such batteries.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

The Earl of MAYO gave notice that on March 9 he should ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the representation of the people in Ireland.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHHS.

Mr. HUNT announced, at the instance of Sir C. Bright, that he hoped in a few days to be able to introduce a bill for the acquirement and working of the electric telegraphs in the United Kingdom.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

The LORD ADVOCATE, in asking leave to introduce a Reform Bill for Scotland, explained that he had proposed that the burgh franchise should be similar to that in the English Reform Act of last Session, and that all householders rated and paying their rates should possess the qualifications, provisions being inserted to guard against the omission from the register of any person whose name ought to appear thereon. For the counties he proposed to reduce the ownership qualification to £5 clear yearly value, and to fix the occupation franchise at the same amount as in the English Act, or a rating value of £12. In dealing with the question of distribution it was intended to take away the right of representation from any existing constituency, for all must admit that there was no superiority of representation in Scotland at this moment. On the contrary, he proposed to increase the number of Scotch members by seven. Two of these would be allocated to the Universities of Scotland; three to the large and populous counties of Lanark, Ayr, and Aberdeen; one to the city of Glasgow, which would thus be placed on the same footing as Liverpool and Manchester; and the seventh to a grouped constituency comprising eight towns, with a population of upwards of 6000 each—namely, Coatbridge, Wishaw, Barrhead, Johnstone, Helensburgh, Kirkintilloch, and Pollockshaws. He further proposed to add Hawick and Galashiels to the Haddington, Ardrossan to the Ayr, and Alton to the Stirling district of burghs.

A debate, in which Mr. Baxter, Mr. Smollett, Sir J. Ogilvy, Mr. McLaren, Sir E. Colebrooke, Sir J. Ferguson, and Mr. Graham took part, was concluded by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who undertook that whatever suggestions might be made should receive the careful attention of the Government, with the one desire of making the representation of Scotland as efficient as possible. Leave was then given to bring in the bill, which was read the first time.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of a bill the object of which is to abolish a great number of the oaths which persons who accept offices of almost any kind have to take. Only four of these promissory oaths are to be retained—namely, those taken by the high officers of State, by the Judges, by soldiers, and by constables. The Bishop of OXFORD was in favour of keeping up the swearing, but he did not meet with much support among their Lordships. The bill was read the second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

The House spent a considerable time in the discussion of some propositions made by Mr. DODSON in reference to the manner of dealing with the private business of the House of Commons. These propositions would, if carried into effect, virtually revolutionise the whole existing system of dealing with private bills. They were discussed at some length, but finally the consideration of them was adjourned for a fortnight.

abyssinia.

Sir S. NORTHCOTT said there was no truth in the report that Egyptian troops were marching upon Abyssinia. The Government of Egypt has shown every desire to meet the wishes of the English Government in respect to the expedition. Further, the Indian Secretary assures the House that there is no deficiency of water in Abyssinia, nor is the cost of getting it so great as has been stated. Neither has there been any fighting between our troops and the Abyssinians.

ADMIRALTY ACCOUNTS.

Mr. SEELY brought forward a motion for a Select Committee to inquire into dockyard expenditure and Admiralty accounts. He showed the enormous cost of ships built in the Royal dockyards, the large sums spent on repairs, and the utter want of system in the accounts.

Mr. CORRY, to his own satisfaction, showed that Mr. Seely did not know anything about the matter, and then consented to the appointment of the Committee.

Mr. Childers and Lord H. Lennox having spoken, the motion for a Committee was agreed to.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

Mr. COLE RIDGE, in Committee of the whole House, moved for leave to be given to bring in a bill to repeal certain statutes affecting the constitution of the University of Oxford and the colleges in that University.

The motion was agreed to, Mr. Secretary HARDY intimating that he should offer the bill all the opposition in his power at the future stages.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Bank Holidays Bill was moved, on the second reading, by Sir C. O'LOGHLEN, who explained that the object of the measure was to make St. Stephen's Day, the day following Christmas Day, a Bank holiday; to enable the Queen in Council to declare Bank holidays without the necessity of a special Act of Parliament; and to make bills and promissory notes due on holidays payable the day after maturity, instead of the day before, as at present. After a short discussion, the bill was read the second time.

CHURCH RATES.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in moving the second reading of his bill for the abolition of compulsory church rates, reviewed the attempts which had been made at legislation on the subject during the last ten years, and warmly deprecating the continuance of the church-rate controversy, called upon the leaders of all parties in the House to unite with him in making a sincere experiment to test the real views of the House respecting it. If this were not done, he for his part would feel compelled to leave the matter as it stood in Mr. Hardcastle's bill, for total and unconditional repeal. The measure for which he asked a second reading contained provisions for the abolition of compulsory church rates, except in cases where money was due on their security. It also provided for the making of voluntary assessments, by the parishioners assembled in vestry; that if at a vestry convened for that purpose a poll was demanded, the names of the voters should be entered in a book; that voluntary payments and agreements for contributions might be made, and that the liability incurred under such agreements might be enforced in any court of law or equity. It further provided that no person should have a right to vote on the question of assessment or the disposal of the funds who had not paid up his voluntary assessment, or made a voluntary contribution for the same year, which in amount was not less than that of his voluntary assessment.

Mr. HENLEY candidly admitted that he would have preferred the bill of Mr. Hardcastle to the present proposal, which, it appeared, would subject those who voted for the rate, or agreed to subscribe towards it, to a Chancery suit in case they did not fulfil their contract.

Lord CRANBOURNE was desirous of getting the best terms he could for the Church; and thought that the bill of Mr. Hubbard would have been preferable to the one now before the House; but, inasmuch as the latter retained the machinery for collecting church rates, and gave a voice on the expenditure of the money to those who subscribed to it, he should accept the proposal it contained. He took the bill upon the principle that he might "go further and fare worse."

After some remarks from Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. Hubbard, and Mr. Ayrton,

Mr. Secretary HARDY said he had always been opposed to total abolition; and as to the present bill, he was of opinion that in many parishes it would not come into operation at all. If the House went into Committee on the measure, it would be necessary to consider the clauses in various respects. The right hon. gentleman declared emphatically that he adhered to the opinion he had often before expressed,

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1868.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

MR. DISRAELI can play the rôle of the candid friend to perfection when he is so minded; and he was so minded the other evening, on the subject of the Reform Bill for Scotland. Besides reducing the franchise to the same scale adopted in the bill for England, passed last Session—namely, rated household suffrage in boroughs and five-pounder ownership and twelve pounds' occupancy in counties—the measure confers seven new members upon the northern division of the kingdom; it creates a new group of boroughs, and it adds certain important towns to each of three existing groups. The seven new members, which are to be added to the present numbers in the House, are to be thus apportioned:—Two are to be allotted to the Universities; one each is to be given to the counties of Aberdeen, Ayr, and Lanark; one is to be allocated to Glasgow, which will then become a "three-cornered constituency," with limited voting; and one is to represent the new group of boroughs, composed of the towns of Coatbridge and Wishaw (Lanarkshire); Barrhead, Johnstone, and Pollockshaws (Renfrewshire); and Helensburgh and Kirkintilloch (Dumbartonshire). Further, Alloa is to be incorporated with the Stirling burghs; Ardrossan with the Ayr burghs; and Galashiels and Hawick with the Haddington burghs.

Now, the principal point of objection to the project is in reference to the rearrangement of the burghs and the eliminating of so large a portion of the urban population from the country constituencies; and it was in reference to this matter that Mr. Disraeli came out strong in the character of candid friend to the Scotch. Said he in effect: "We offer you seven new members distributed in a certain way; and I would advise you to accept this boon with thankfulness, lest ye fare worse. Don't follow any will-o'-the-wisp expectations as to what a reformed Parliament will do for you. We, as a party, have nothing to gain or lose either way." We must take leave here to say that this last declaration is not quite consistent with truth. Very few Conservative members come from Scotland—in fact, we can only reckon nine in all—and these few exclusively represent counties, not a single borough member from Scotland can be counted on as a supporter by Mr. Disraeli; while of the counties affected by the bill, Lanark, Renfrew, Clackmannan, and Roxburgh send Liberals, and the withdrawal of thriving manufacturing and mining towns from these counties might very possibly turn the scale of voting, and let in Conservatives. In Dumbartonshire, Ayrshire, and Selkirkshire, again, the elimination of Helensburgh and Kirkintilloch from the first named, of Androssan from the second, and of part of Galashiels (which lies in two counties, Roxburgh and Selkirk) from the third, will at least make the seats of Conservative members secure, which they are not quite at present, Dumbarton and Ayr having both within recent years been represented by Liberals. Then the Universities, as is the wont of such institutions, would probably return Tories; and a like result would in all likelihood follow from the "three-cornering" of Glasgow, one member from which would probably be a supporter of Mr. Disraeli, although the sentiment of the mass of the population is entirely on the other side. The second members for Aberdeen and Lanark, again, would perhaps—indeed, most likely—be of the "True Blue" shade of politics; while in Ayrshire the representation would at the worst be divided. So that though the Conservatives may have little to lose, there is a good deal for them to gain under the arrangements proposed by the Government bill. In fact, on every point touched they may calculate on obtaining advantages. All this may be quite right, looked at from Mr. Disraeli's point of view; we don't dispute that. The Scottish Conservatives may even be under-represented; though, considering the almost universal Liberalism that prevails in the north, that is doubtful. But most assuredly the Conservatives *may* gain by the proposed distribution of new members in Scotland, while they are not at all likely to lose by that part of the scheme. Consequently, it follows that the wily Chancellor only told a part of the truth; he did not tell the whole truth; his candour and indifference are more seeming than real; hence it is desirable that all the bearings of the matter should be known and understood.

One thing strikes us as curious in connection with the question of the apportionment of representation, and that is, that while grouping is deemed admirably adapted to Scotland and in some degree to Wales and Ireland, it seems to be thought quite unsuitable to England, and we should like to hear a good reason rendered for this. Disinclination to disturb the existing state of things will not serve for an explanation, for, as it is proposed to disturb the present state of affairs in one part of the kingdom, why not in others? Is the *status quo* more sacred south of the Tweed than north of that river? If it be a judicious plan to abstract small towns from the counties in Scotland, and group them into boroughs, it must be equally judicious to group small boroughs in England. By doing so, amply sufficient seats might be obtained to satisfy the claims of Scotland without positively disfranchising any English constituency at all, and without increasing the number of members of the Commons' House of Parliament—an already inconveniently large assembly, both as regards the possibility of deliberation or of accommodation. Grouping we think a very excellent system; but we should like to see it carried out all over the kingdom, and not in particular portions only.

Then again, as no difference is made between England and Scotland as regards taxation or the other duties of citizenship, why should old distinctions be kept up in the matter of Parliamentary representation? If the south and the north parts of the island are really, as we are told, one nation, let both share alike in political power in proportion to the population and wealth of each. Let there be no invidious distinctions—no undue preponderance of one region over another. These are points which may as well be considered now that the representation of Scotland is undergoing revision as to leave them till the whole question of redistribution is reopened. Still, whether they are considered now or not does not, perhaps, very much matter, for reopened that question certainly will be ere long.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE TRADES UNIONISTS.

ON Tuesday the deputation from the London trades societies' delegates waited, by appointment, upon the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone, M.P., at his private residence, 11, Carlton House-terrace, for the purpose of explaining to him the actual working of trades unions, and of refuting the alleged incorrect statements made by him in a speech at Oldham, on Dec. 18 last. The proceedings were opened by Mr. George Potter in a rather lengthened address, in which he put prominently forward the rules of certain of the unions, and carefully abstained from any mention of the practices of these bodies and their members.

Mr. Gladstone immediately rose to reply. Passing over the acts of violence exercised by working men towards their fellow-working men (which Mr. Gladstone did not believe would be a subject of contention between himself and the deputation), and briefly referring to the remedy of which they had been deprived by a judgment in a court of law against fraudulent officers, Mr. Gladstone proceeded to give his views on the subjects brought before him by the deputation. He observed with regard to the principle of associations amongst working men, with a view to the diminution of the amount of labour and getting the best price for it, that he could take no exception to associations on that principle. He rather thought it was what might be called self-defence in the friendly strife between capital and labour; and, amongst many good reasons for the association of working men, was its beneficial tendency in the provision thus made for themselves and their infirm members. With respect to strikes, Mr. Gladstone was not prepared to say that in themselves they were unjust and improper, although he apprehended that it required great judgment to determine when a strike was warranted by circumstances. But he viewed with much interest the experiments that appeared to hold out some promise of a means of adjustment between employers and labourers; and there was nothing he looked upon as more full of promise than the establishment of such institutions as the co-operative mill at Oldham, provided they were commercially sound, because nothing was so desirable as that which put working men in the condition of both capitalist and labourer. With respect to regulations in restraint of labour, it appeared to the right hon. gentleman that, as a general rule, they had a tendency to diminish the aggregate amount of the fund which constitutes the whole wages of the country. The restrictions, too, imposed upon employers, in many cases, had had a most powerful effect in stimulating invention, and the introduction of machinery might have been less rapid but for the fact that in some businesses employers had found themselves hard driven by what they had thought the restraints imposed upon them. With respect to the employment of women, it should be remembered that if they did compete with the men, they were the wives and daughters of the men; and if their labour was cheaper, it was for the benefit of the men themselves as a class—in other words, the aggregate earnings of the labouring class in the community, and in that particular trade, were greatly increased. Then, with regard to the boys, it was exactly the same thing. It was said that apprentices had small wages, and that that was a reason for limiting their labour. If that was the fact, the question was, whether it was not desirable that they should work as unapprenticed boys, and obtain the best wages the market would afford. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to speak in terms of condemnation of certain rules laid down in some trades against piece-work, and the rules prescribing for each man the mode in which he should actually perform his labour, and concluded by observing that, as it appeared to him, the best condition of the labouring community was that in which the way upwards was the easiest and most open.

Other members of the deputation afterwards addressed Mr. Gladstone, who asked a variety of questions upon the points raised. Mr. Potter, in returning thanks to Mr. Gladstone for the kind and courteous manner in which he had received the deputation, said that from all that had been advanced by the various speakers it would be seen that in regard to the limitation of apprentices supplanting skilled workmen pointed to two facts that it was what all true statesmen wished accomplished—viz., the restriction of juvenile labour, so that the period of education in boyhood might be extended for several years; secondly, it suggested the necessity of an organised system of emigration whereby the surplus labour of the country should be taken to our colonies, where it is so much needed. With regard to the general action of the unions, it would be seen that union men did not object to work with non-union men; that in the majority of trades apprentices were not limited; that the enforcement of a minimum rate of wages was as necessary for the best interests of society as for the welfare of the workmen. The deputation was convinced that the societies whom they represented were not perfect, but they were anxious that all the imperfections and abuses should be eradicated, and that they should be conducted on principles that would meet with the approbation of the public.

The deputation then withdrew.

THE GREAT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE will take place this year. The Hon. J. H. Gordon, who accidentally shot himself a few days ago, rowed No. 4 in the Cambridge crew; and out of respect to his memory, and probably from inability to fill his place satisfactorily, it had been determined to withdraw the challenge. But at a meeting of the Cambridge Boat Club on Thursday it was decided not to withdraw from the contest.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has sent to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn-road, through Dr. Jenner, a copy of her Majesty's work, "Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands." Her Majesty has written on the fly-leaf, "Presented to the Royal Free Hospital by Victoria R."

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES will hold levees at St. James's Palace, on behalf of the Queen, on Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 17.

THE EX-KING OF BAVARIA is ill at Nice, and his ailment has taken an alarming turn.

THE STATE OF THE EARL OF DERBY'S HEALTH occasioned much anxiety at the beginning of the week; but we are glad to say that the latest accounts to hand report the noble Earl as a great deal better.

THE DUKE OF BUCKLEIGH has been awarded £10,000 for the depreciation caused to his property at Montagu House by the construction of the Thames embankment.

MR. ADAMS, the American Minister, will leave this country, it is expected, about the middle of April.

MR. M. W. THOMPSON, M.P. for Bradford, has presented to the inhabitants of Guiseley a Townhall, built at a cost of upwards of £3000.

THE SUM TO BE PAID for the dispensation asked from the Pope on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Humbert with his cousin the Princess Margherita, will be 100,000f.

AN ACTIVE SYSTEM OF RATTLING is said to be going on at the Foreign Office, the diplomatic service being called upon to declare that they are in favour of agencies.

HER MAJESTY is about to confer upon Dr. Jenner the dignity of a Baronetcy.

MISS BESSIE ALLEYNE (Lady Hardley) will shortly return to the stage.

A BOAT CLUB, under the presidency of the Hon. George Denman, M.P., has been established at University College, London.

THE SARACEN'S HEAD HOTEL, Skinner-street, Snow-hill, celebrated in the old carrier and coaching days, was on Monday disposed of by auction, by instructions of the Improvement Committee of the City of London, and will shortly be demolished.

THE CARNIVAL AT ROME began last Saturday. The Corso was very animated. Although few carriages were observed, large crowds filled the streets. Perfect order prevailed.

THE ARRANGEMENTS for the new class of Foreign Royal Academicians are complete. When the Burlington-gardens building is ready they will be elected. They will have the right of exhibiting, the same as English R.A.s.

THE COUNCIL OF KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON, have, it is understood, accepted, from Jane 30 next, Dr. Jelf's resignation of the office of Principal, and resolved now to receive names of candidates for the appointment. The election will probably be made early in May.

FRANCE has again purchased a large number of horses in Hungary. It is said that no less than 25,000 will be successively dispatched from Pesth to Strasburg.

THE ENGLISH IRON-CLAD FLEET, up to Aug. 31 last, consisted of thirty-one vessels, which cost £7,248,294. Twenty-one of the number exceeded 3000 tons each. The most costly ship was the Minotaur, £450,774; and the next the Agincourt, £446,048.

A YOUNG MAN, whose name is supposed to be Thomas Lee, committed suicide by throwing himself from the northern tower at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday evening.

THE EARL OF DERBY'S SECOND VALET has committed suicide by cutting his throat, at Knowsley. He was engaged to be married, and had got the notion that his intended wife had transferred her attachment to another.

ALL THE OBSOLETE CAST-IRON GUNS which have been accumulating in the Royal Arsenal for the past forty years are to be melted and converted into wrought iron at the rate of sixty tons per week. These guns at present cover acres of land, and, at the above rate, will take twelve years to melt down.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CORN EXCHANGE and of the London Corn Exchange, Mark-lane, have presented, through B. L. Judkin, Esq., and H. K. Jackson, Esq., to the National Life-boat Institution £500. In compliment to the subscribers, the institution has decided to name the Yarmouth large life-boat the Mark-lane.

A COMMITTEE OF FLORENTINE LADIES, formed for the purpose of offering a present to Princess Margherita, have decided on sending a richly enamelled and sculptured chest, similar in elegance and beauty to those which the rich Florentine maidens used in former times to send to the houses of their intended bridegrooms, containing their dresses and jewels.

THE NUMBER OF LICENSES taken out in the United Kingdom for the financial year 1865-6 by dealers in spirits, wine, maltsters, brewers, publicans, beershop-keepers, and other retailers of beer, was 340,000.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has just sent a handsome gold watch to M. de Block, Burgomaster of Zele, on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. The following inscription is engraved on the case:—"Given by the King to M. Guillaume de Block, the 14th of Feb., 1868." This gentleman still possesses all his faculties; he is honorary president of the local shooting society, he walks out daily alone, and sometimes attends the rifle meetings.

MR. JOHN CLARKE, the comedian, formerly of the Strand and Prince of Wales' Theatres, and now playing at Covent Garden, has been engaged by Mr. Benjamin Webster for the Olympic. Mr. Clarke will appear shortly in one of the most famous characters created by Mr. Charles Dickens.

MRS. COBDEN announces that she proposes to arrange, with a view to publication, a collection of Mr. Cobden's letters on public questions, commencing with those on national education. Mrs. Cobden asks that any of her late husband's friends who have letters suitable for this collection will oblige her with the use of the originals.

A BACHELORS' BALL was given at Winchester on St. Valentine's Eve. At one a.m. on St. Valentine's Day a postman gave a rat-tat at the ball-room door and delivered a handsome valentine to every lady and gentleman in the room. Many of the valentines were very quaint and humorous ones. The additional postal delivery caused much amusement.

A CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION is being arranged between several members of the Episcopal Bench and some of the leading advocates in Parliament of primary education. The conference will include those who represent the various opinions on the question. It is likely that among others Earl Granville, Mr. Bruce, M.P., and Mr. Forster, M.P. will take part in the conference.

AN INLAND REVENUE RETURN which has just been issued shows that, in the financial year 1865-6 no less than 136,978,045 penny stamps were supplied to the public for use on receipts, dranghts, and other documents (other than letters) requiring a penny stamp.

IN A CERTAIN DISTRICT IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS the bellman one day made the following proclamation:—"O yes! O yes! and O yes! and that's three times! You'll all pe take notice that there will be no Lord's Day here next Sabbath, pecause the Laird's wife wants the kirk to dry her clothes in it."

THE HOME SECRETARY has put his veto on a gigantic lottery, or annual sale by ballot, announced to take place at Oxford, for the relief of suffering thousands of London and the homeless poor of Oxford. The Mayor (Mr. J. R. Carr) has been communicated with by Mr. Hardy, and a correspondence has ensued which will probably lead the Government to prohibit the numerous monster draws which are now going on throughout the kingdom.

THE SYSTEM OF STREET-WATERING is undergoing a revision. A combination of certain non-corrosive salts has been invented, which, sprinkled on roads, keeps them damp, yet prevents the accumulation of mud, and is not injurious to coach-panels or personal attire. Experiments are about to be made with it in Camberwell and Lambeth by the vestries, who are promised a saving of 20 per cent by the adoption of the system.

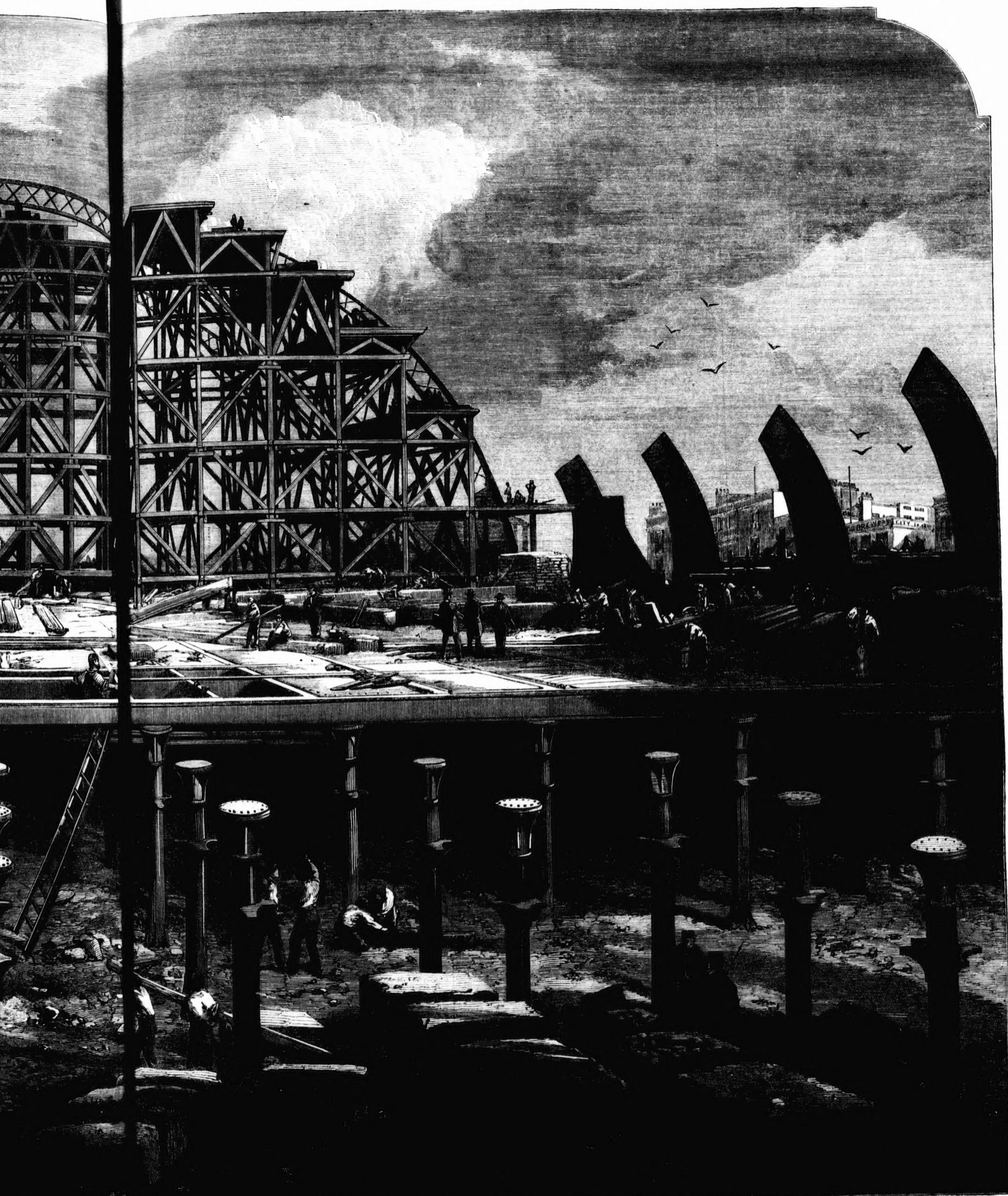
A JOINT-STOCK COMPANY for the erection of working men's dwellings has just been founded in Brussels, under the patronage of the Belgian Immobiliere. The King has taken a hundred shares of 500f. each, and the Count de Flandre fifty. The General Industrial Company, the Bank of Belgium, and the Mutual Company of Manufacturers have each taken a hundred, and the Immobiliere has subscribed for two hundred. The capital is to be 5,000,000f.

THE "LAW DECLARATION" of the Catholics of Ireland against the Church Establishment bears the signatures of twelve peers, four right honourables, fourteen baronets, nineteen members of Parliament, fifty-eight deputy lieutenants, and over three hundred magistrates. All the Roman Catholic peers and right honourables have signed it; and it is described by the *Freeman's Journal* as a "dignified repudiation of the alleged apathy of the Catholic laity on the subject, and a significant expression of the sentiments of the Catholic community."

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.—While the wind was blowing strong at Irvine, N.B., last week, the barque Kate Agnes, of St. John, New Brunswick, which was passing Irvine in tow of a steam-tug, became unmanageable, took the ground, and came broadside on to the beach, the sea breaking over her. The life-boat of the National Life-boat Institution was promptly launched, and took off the master, his wife, and the crew of fourteen men, who were brought on shore in safety. A telegram reached London on Wednesday, the 19th inst., from St. Ives, Cornwall, stating that on the morning of that day the National Institution's life-boat stationed there was the means of saving the crew of five men of the Gipsy, of Chepstow, which was wrecked on the Ridge. A gig had previously gone off to the rescue, but had capsized, and, unhappily, drowned one of her crew. The life-boat picked up another of the men. She herself shipped such tremendous seas that the coxswain and two of her crew were washed overboard. They were some minutes in the water, but were fortunately soon got into the life-boat again.



THE WORKS AT THE SITE OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY TE



SITE OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY TERMINUS, EUSTON ROAD.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

The report of the committee of consultation, submitted to the half-yearly meeting on Wednesday, states that they have received convincing proof of the integrity with which the affairs of the Midland Company have been conducted by its directors and officers, and of the trustworthiness of its published accounts. The general condition of the line, with its locomotive stock and plant, is satisfactory. While giving credit to the directors and their officers for uprightness, zeal in the service of the company, and ability in various departments of the working of its vast concerns, the committee cannot but regret that they have suffered the company to be drawn into engagements far beyond what could be properly undertaken at any one time. Many, if not most, of the new lines projected or in progress admit of justification when looked at on their individual merits; some of them, in the opinion of the committee, are of doubtful expediency; but, taken in the aggregate, they involve an amount of liability which cannot be met without great inconvenience to the shareholders, and which it is now essential materially to curtail or postpone. The extent to which the estimated cost of the new lines and works has been exceeded by the actual expenditure, also, cannot be noticed without regret. Justice requires the admission that this success has been in some degree owing to the rapid advance in the price of materials and of labour, and the still more important increase in the value of land and building. But it would appear that, independent of these causes, the original estimate did not provide a sufficient margin; and that alterations in the plans have also entailed an increase of outlay much beyond the pecuniary means authorised by Parliament to be raised. The committee further express their surprise and regret that, when the need of additional capital had become quite obvious, there should have been so much delay in applying to Parliament for additional powers as to place the company under the necessity of asking for the large amount of £5,000,000 at one time. The crisis in the money market in 1866 forms an apology for the delay, but the event proves that the policy was mistaken. A salutary check would be placed on the spirit of extension in boards and companies if, with every half-yearly report, there was published a complete and detailed list of all the engagements of the company, showing the works in progress and those in abeyance, with the cost already incurred and that which will be required to complete each work, and also the capital authorised to be raised in shares or by borrowing, with the Acts giving those powers. In the face of such a statement, plainly showing in detail and in the aggregate all the liabilities of the company, it is not likely that the bounds of prudence could be seriously transgressed; and it is therefore recommended that a statement of this kind shall be published with every future report. On the 31st of December, 1867, the liabilities of the company for lines and works then remaining to be executed or completed were estimated at the large amount of £8,153,513. Should all the works be executed, and for the amounts estimated, the capital expenditure of the company would then be raised to £40,142,482; and as the amounts authorised by the various Acts of Parliament to be raised only reach £35,142,482, it follows that £5,000,000 more capital would be required. It appears that there are twenty-two lines and works not commenced, for which an aggregate capital has been authorised by Parliament of £3,740,942. Of these about ten distinct works, amounting in the aggregate to about £250,000, do not admit of being postponed; but all the rest may be postponed. Some of the older lines in progress, undertaken in conjunction with other companies or separately, are likely to be proceeded with slowly; and it is probable that the proportion required to be paid by the Midland towards the remainder of the works on the Liverpool and Cheshire line (undertaken in conjunction with the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and the Great Northern Companies) will not exceed £100,000 in 1868, and £100,000 in 1869. The amount which has already been contributed by the Midland towards these lines is about £700,000, and the total further liability of this company upon them is estimated at £815,554. The directors have furnished the committee with a statement, showing that they intend not to expend on all the lines and works and stock of the company (old and new) more than £2,000,000 in the year 1868, and £1,000,000 in the year 1869. The new line from Bedford to London, together with the London stations, will no doubt be of considerable ultimate advantage to the Midland Company; but they afford striking illustrations of the extent to which the estimates of such great works sometimes fall short of the actual cost. In the report of Feb. 17, 1863, the project of the new line was first announced to the proprietors as a railway from Bedford, by the way of Ampthill, Luton, and St. Albans, to London. The length of railway and branches to be made is fifty-one miles and a quarter, and the estimated cost £1,750,000. The first estimate for the London stations amounted to £266,000; for the subterranean branch from St. Pancras to the Metropolitan Railway to £200,000—together £2,216,000. But up to Dec. 31, 1867, the actual expenditure had been on the Bedford and London Railway, including the branch to the Metropolitan Railway, £3,451,673; on the London stations, £715,446; and it is estimated that £1,132,289 more will be required to complete the works. Thus the aggregate expenditure on the Bedford and London line, &c., will be £5,299,408, or £3,083,408 beyond what the shareholders were originally led to expect, and £2,143,615 in excess of the Parliamentary powers. These statements destroy confidence in estimates, and they deserve notice as a warning to directors and shareholders for the future. The committee, having passed over the line from Bedford, and inspected the goods station in London and the works in progress for the passengers' station, are bound to say that the new access to the metropolis seems to them to be substantially well constructed, and to bear no appearance of extravagance. It is proper to mention that there is every probability of a large passenger traffic in the suburbs of London, and that the extent of mineral and goods traffic which may be had there is declared by experienced persons to be only limited by the extent of the accommodation that can be provided for it. The Committee of Consultation had hoped that it would have been practicable for the directors to reduce by some considerable amount the £5,000,000 which they have asked for power to raise by the bill before Parliament. But they are assured by the legal adviser of the company that this cannot be done. The company has bought rolling stock to the amount of £960,000, for which it has not yet obtained Parliamentary powers, and has also ordered for its immediate necessities a further supply of engines and wagons to the amount of £340,000; both which amounts (together £1,300,000) must be paid for out of the £5,000,000. Having in view these facts, the committee cannot recommend the shareholders to withhold their assent from the money bill. The committee refer to the wish of many of the shareholders of the Midland to see several of the projected lines abandoned. The committee have shared this wish, and they have anxiously considered whether it was possible to recommend some definite and immediate action as to the Settle and Carlisle line. The expediency of applying to Parliament to sanction its abandonment would, of course, much depend on the nature of the terms which may be offered by the London and North-Western Company for the use of the Lancaster and Carlisle line, and the confirmation of those terms by Parliament must be made simultaneous with the sanction given by the same authority to an abandonment bill; but no steps can be taken towards either the one object or the other till the latter part of the present year. In the mean time it is obvious that the Midland Company must retain their position, with all its powers. The committee believe that the London and North-Western Company are sincerely desirous of making a just and fair arrangement of all questions between the companies. It is believed that the Midland directors are actuated by the same spirit; and, taking this view of the feelings of the two boards, and considering the first steps taken towards an amicable arrangement, the committee look with much hope to the future. In the various conclusions indicated in this report the committee are unanimous.

Our Engraving shows the state of the works at the site of the proposed Midland terminus, in Euston-road, some particulars respecting which have on previous occasions appeared in our columns. This station, when completed, will be one of the most handsome, as well as most convenient, in the metropolis.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

Who will be Prime Minister? That is the question now which agitates all lobbies, clubs, and coteries. For that the Earl of Derby, though recovering from his illness, can live long, or living, can continue in office, is settled in the negative. Now, on this subject I venture modestly to give my opinion—an opinion partly evolved from my own consciousness, as the philosophers say, and partly grounded upon the opinions of men likely to know more of what official men think than I do. The Earl of Derby is better; the doctors think that there is now no danger of a relapse. That being so, I think that—the *Times'* exhortations notwithstanding—he will not resign. To change your front in the face of an enemy, Disraeli, in 1866, told Gladstone, is proverbially dangerous. To change your General is equally ticklish; and, this being so, the Earl of Derby will be urged to keep his post as long as he possibly can. And here let me point out that the noble Earl's duties as First Lord of the Treasury are not in themselves very onerous; and, as to his responsibilities as Premier, he is in Mr. Disraeli a most capable lieutenant to assist him to bear them. That the Earl of Derby would like to resign there cannot be a doubt. But, depend upon it, that to serve his party, which has so loyally adhered to him, he will as far as possible sacrifice his likings. But he may die or be forced to resign by manifold infirmities, and, in that case, who would be Prime Minister? On this question opinions differ. Some say Lord Stanley; some Disraeli. My own opinion inclines to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Why should he not be? He can be if he likes, and he, no doubt, would like. I say he can be if he like; and pray what is to hinder? He is perfect master of the situation. Men say Lord Derby is the keystone of the arch, but that is not so; Disraeli is really the keystone. The Ministry could go on without Lord Derby, but if Disraeli were to secede it would at once tumble into ruins. A country gentleman said to me only the other day, "the party would never stand that"—meaning Disraeli as Premier; but this is sheer nonsense. Two years ago there might have been something in this. Perhaps, two years ago the party might have been violently inclined to stand that; but, after standing what it had to stand last year, it is really difficult to imagine what it would not stand. The Conservatives swallowed a camel; will they now strain at a gnat? Besides, however much disinclined they may be to stand that, they must do it. The Ministers would, to a man, rally round their chief: all expectants would do the same. And what could the rest do? Nothing but, as the old phrase has it, grim and endure. Some daring, high-minded Conservative, if there be such a man—I confess that I, who know every man in the party, cannot find such a one—might move a vote of want of confidence. But would he succeed? I think not. As far as I can learn, there is no disposition on the Opposition side to disturb the Government this year. The Radicals are, I think, quite decided upon this point; and if said daring, high-minded Conservative were to take the step indicated, the previous question would probably be moved, and then there would be a pretty fiasco. But I think there is no such daring Conservative to be found. This is the last year of Parliament, and nobody, with a general election close at hand, is inclined to daring deeds.

The Scotch Reform Bill is by no means palatable to Scotch members; and, if Disraeli were obstinate and resolute to stand or fall by his bill, we might have a crisis; but he is really soft to the touch, as military men say, and as tolerant as an osier. All he means to adhere to is the principle of the bill; and, when we remember what happened last year—how, one after another, he surrendered his "vital points," and yet by his ingenious rhetoric maintained that to the end he had still preserved the principle of the bill—we need not, I think, apprehend that he will tempt a crisis upon this measure. "Her Majesty's Government," he says, "has laid this bill upon the table, and they are satisfied that it is, on the whole, a wise measure; but if there be any details objectionable to the House, and the House should in its wisdom decide that these can be altered without sacrificing the principle of the bill, her Majesty's Government will, &c." In short, do just as it did last year—"take the House into its confidence." Formerly, Governments stood by their bills, in both principle and detail; but we have changed all that.

Sir William Shee is dead, and another Judgeship has fallen into the Government hands; and there is another ripe to the fall, for, as I am told, Baron Channell is dangerously ill. "These fellows" seem to have bribed Death and made a bargain with the grave. Of course, all the Conservative lawyers are in a most excited state, and stand, *erectis auribus*—with ears erect—as horses do when they hear a rattling in the cornbin. There are Huddleston, Karslake, Baggaley, Garth, all on the qui vive, wonderingly, tremblingly, hopefully, all anxious to know at whose feet the handkerchief will fall.

Many readers will remember the amusing "History of Signboards," with its anecdotes and quaint stories of tavern life in the olden time, which Mr. Hotten published a short while since. A companion volume, from the pen of Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A., bearing the title of "A Caricature History of the Georges; or, Annals of the House of Hanover," compiled from the squibs, broadsides, window-pictures, lampoons, and pictorial caricatures of the time, is about to appear from the same publishing-house. The book will contain nearly 400 illustrations from the caricatures of Gillray, Sayers, Rowlandson, and other masters of pictorial satire. It will be published at a very moderate price.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review* opens with a curiously-interesting paper by Professor H. Morley, on "Three Old Yorkshire Poems"—a paper as interesting for its critical asides as for its direct contents. Mr. G. J. Whyte Melville concludes "The White Rose," whereof I am glad, for one; not because it was not a good story of the sort, nor because Mr. Melville is not a man of much talent—of course he is—but because this particular tale seemed to me out of place in the *F. R.*, and, indeed, rather coarse. Mr. Seebom's paper "On the Christian Hypothesis and the Method of its Verification" is deserving of attention, though not powerfully written. But does it come to anything more than the old *solvitur ambulando* argument of Dr. Arnold? Upon Mr. M. D. Conway's notice of Mr. Swinburne's "William Blake" I may observe that there is a fire of devotion in Blake which neither Mr. Swinburne nor Mr. Conway is quite the man to see in its whole intensity and mounting brightness. But Mr. Conway deserves thanks for his notice, and, among incidental matters, for what he says about Swedenborg.

In what I wrote last week concerning Signor Mazzini, the words "battle of Novara" were a slip. I was very unwell, and did not see the proof; it was in the retreat of Garibaldi, in 1847, from Milan, I believe, that Mazzini carried the standard. The whole of the Charles Albert story took place at a time when I never saw newspapers, and I wrote in haste, in pain, and from memory only. Amidst much extremely interesting matter, the *Contemporary Review* contains a very sober and careful article by Mr. John Boyd Kinnear in defence of the Scottish Marriage Law. I think myself that the Scottish marriage law is more just than the English, while the Scottish law relating to the dissolution of marriage is even enormously more just than our own; and I have often wondered why jurists and legislators have not taken more account of the complete answer which the working of the Scottish law of dissolution (in a certain particular in which it places the wife on an equality with the husband) gives to the excuse of expediency which is urged for the admitted injustice of the English law. On one point—that of the facility with which marriages may be dissolved in England for reasons relating to the names of the parties—Mr. Kinnear's argument received some confirmation in a striking case in point while his article was going through the press. Yet, though Sir James Wilde was much condemned for declaring that particular marriage void, most people would agree that even if he had absolutely "stretched" the law, he did a wise and humane thing. However, Mr. Kinnear's "broad and simple doctrine, that marriage shall be as free as God has made it, and shall be proved, when doubted, by any evidence which can show what the parties really meant," is obnoxious to the old thousand-pounder question

of Milton, brought out since his time, too, by a hundred people, down to Mr. J. S. Mill inclusive ("Liberty," chap. v., paragraph 11). As stated by Milton it is as follows:—"If marriage must be as in the beginning, the persons that marry must be such as then were. . . . It is but madness to drag this one ordinance back to the beginning and draw down all others to the present necessity. . . . The institution from the beginning was but conditional, as all covenants are; if thus and thus, then so and so; if not thus, then not so. . . . If it be true, both in divinity and law, that consent alone makes a marriage. . . . how can they dissolve it for the want of that which made it not, and yet not dissolve it for that not continuing which made it?" Mr. Kinnear's English critics will use this argument for a very different purpose from Milton's; but they will use it. By the-by, Milton's "Tetrachordon" is not a funny book; but it contains two rather good little stories, which catch my eye as I am writing:—"So, in the Ecclesiastical Stories, one demanded how God employed himself before the world was made, and had for answer, that he was making hell for curious questioners. Another (Libanius, the sophist, as I remember) asking in derision some Christian what the Carpenter, meaning our Saviour, was doing now that Julian so prevailed, had it returned to him, that the Carpenter was making a coffin for the Apostate."

In the current *Contemporary* there is an instructive coincidence between the learned Dr. Zeller on Plato's Utopia and the author of the "London Press" article. Writing about the Arnoldian "culture" as a polity, the latter says:—"We must try and get it understood that what is offered to us under the name of that culture whose pretensions affect us disagreeably is not merely refined and thoughtful knowledge; it is a certain result of special training, with a decided moral bias superadded. Now, what is that bias? . . . It may be described in varying terms, but it is, to put it in one way out of many less simple, a *bias towards unity, the terms of the unity to be dictated by the cultivated to the uncultivated*. . . . Even under the most favourable circumstances, this bias is propelled towards its end, unity, by the establishment of castes (a fact not new to historical students); and in that way its final tendency is disclosed to us." Dr. Zeller says:—"Plato's leading idea is that the State is a grand educational institution, including the whole life and existence of its members. All else is subordinated to this one object; all private interests are recklessly sacrificed to it; the happiness and perfection of the *whole* alone concern him, says Plato; and the individual must not assert himself further than comports with the beauty of the whole. He feels, therefore, not the slightest hesitation in making a *castelike inequality of classes*."

In *Belgravian Miss* Braddon reappears as a writer of verse. I cannot tell exactly what opinion I should now form of her poetry, after so much more study and experience; but some years ago I remember thinking there was "promise" in her verses.

I have received from Ipswich a little magazine called *The Elizabethan*, which is written entirely by young gentlemen who are or have been members of the well-known school of Queen Elizabeth in that town. I happen to have some reason to feel kindly towards this school; but, apart from that, the magazine is far better than the usual run of such little ventures. I hope to see it again, and to have an opportunity of saying more about it.

The *Broadway* has repented of its hideous wrapper, and now appears in a much better one. In a paper on "International Prejudices," Mr. Sedley, the editor of the *New York Round Table*, makes this most admirable suggestion:—"Perhaps the best thing of an international character that could happen at this juncture, both to England and America, would be that a long visit should be paid to the latter country by Mr. John Stuart Mill. Mr. Mill possesses in a high degree the confidence of the progressive elements in both countries, and there is probably no other writer who, from the general belief in the purity and disinterestedness of his character, from his exalted reputation as a thinker, and from the credit attaching to his ripened experience, would be more likely to do good by publishing a work on America, founded upon personal observation. The result might not be as satisfactory to the extreme Democracy of either country as they would be likely to anticipate; but it would not for this reason, in my humble judgment, be less desirable."

In *Good Words* we have all been glad to welcome once more the pen of Isa Craig—now Mrs. Isa Craig Knox. She is a sweet and noble writer, with a true vein of poetry in her. Talking of poetry, the unsigned verses on pages 120, 121 are a striking example of nice poetic feeling and quite curiously bad workmanship. Mr. Gladstone on "Ecce Homo" is powerful, of course, and should be attentively read; but I think he is hopelessly mistaken in his "reading" of that eloquent book. The artistic triumph of the number is Mr. Pinwell's picture on page 89—the face of that poor old girl almost makes you cry! But, apropos of the picture on page 73, one word. When the treatment, or the assumption, is realistic, it is surely wrong to represent the human body draped in any attitude which would not be chosen if it were undraped, the treatment being supposed to be, in that case also, realistic. I think one could maintain that canon against all comers; and the picture in question violates it.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Robertson's new comedy was produced at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE with success on Saturday last. Its title, "Play," is Robertsonian in character, but it does not appear to bear any important relation to the story or the personages who tell it. Mr. Robertson would seem to have selected the word, in the first instance, as a good suggestive title for a comedy, and to have fitted the piece to its title by the introduction of a gambling scene (which has nothing to do with the story), and by laying its venue at a fashionable German watering-place. These are really the only links that bind the story to its title. Mr. Robertson has grouped together a pleasant variety of amusing characters at the indefinite German watering-place in question: there is a soft-headed but manly young gentleman of fortune, who saves from drowning the pretty girlish niece of a rakish old English roué of good family but impoverished estate; there is the rakish old roué himself, together with his reckless confederate, a soi-disant "Chevalier Brown," who lives by plucking the pigeons that his aristocratic friend lures into their common net. There is the Chevalier's unacknowledged wife, an actress of position, blindly devoted to the scampish husband, who, while he lives on her liberal salary, passes himself off as a bachelor. There are also an old retired tradesman of large fortune, and an acridated spinster of no fortune at all, who pass their time in perpetual bickerings, and who, at the end of the piece, rather suddenly agree to marry. These are the principal characters which Mr. Robertson, through the agency of Messrs. Hare, Bancroft, Montague, Blakeley, Miss M. Wilton, Miss Foote, and Mrs. Leigh Murray, has introduced into his new comedy; and all who are familiar with Mr. Robertson's peculiarly terse, epigrammatic style of dialogue will see that in selecting them he has afforded himself plenty of suitable material upon which to exercise his special powers. I cannot think that Mr. Robertson has been as successful in his plot as in his selection of the characters that go to make it up. The story is rather loose in construction, and here and there are to be found improbabilities so glaring as almost to endanger the success of the piece. At the same time, although a good story is undoubtedly an advantage to a piece, still it is an advantage of a rather mechanical description, and one with which Mr. Robertson can better afford to dispense than any other writer for the English stage. Mr. Robertson must know that dialogue is his strong point, and he is probably unwilling to hamper his singular talent for bright, crisp conversation by constructing a story which must involve short, sharp, and effective action. None of his comedies have depended in any material degree on their plots for the interest they have excited. The delineation of novel and, at the same time, perfectly recognisable character by means of pure dialogue unassisted by striking situations, has apparently been the author's aim in every work that he has written for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and it is unnecessary to say how well he has hitherto succeeded. "Play" is not inferior to "Caste" in the matters of character and dialogue, but the story is more improbable and looser in construction. Moreover, it is not as perfectly acted. Miss Wilton, who plays the frank, girlish, impetuous ward of the scampish old "leg," the Hon. Bruce Fanquhere, is hardly as well fitted as she was with the

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hoydenish ballet-girl in "Caste," or the budding woman-of-the-world in "Ours." Her love scene with Frank Price, who saved her from drowning before the opening of the piece, is as exquisite a piece of natural writing, illustrated by as perfect a piece of natural acting, as it has been my good fortune to see upon the London stage; but in the rather melodramatic scenes that follow, Miss Wilton appeared to me to be, to some extent, clogged by their unreality. In every situation in which Miss Wilton had to deal with simple, natural, and unaffected feeling her acting was absolutely perfect; and, in proportion as her part deflected from the rule of simple nature, so did her performance appear to me to become more and more constrained. Mr. Montague, as Frank Price, her boyish lover, is too conscious of the simplicity of his character. Throughout the earlier scenes of the piece he conveys the notion of a clever fellow who, for some purpose of his own, is assuming the character of a simpleton. He showed to the best advantage in the last act, in which he appears under manlier circumstances. His soliloquy before the duel that he expects to fight with a Prussian officer, and his demeanour towards the bearer of the challenge—the demeanour of a brave and sensitive young Englishman, shocked at the idea of taking or losing life, but plucky to the backbone notwithstanding—show Mr. Montague in his very best colours, and leave nothing whatever to be desired. Mr. Hare has, in the Hon. Bruce Fanquiere, a part which affords him little more than an opportunity for an excellent "make-up." And of this opportunity he has made the most. In his hands the cool, worldly semi-swindler, combining the ideas and intentions of a horsey "cad" with the demeunour of a gentleman of good education and of a certain refined politeness, receives the very fullest justice. But the part is an unimportant one; its conception does great credit both to Mr. Robertson and to Mr. Hare, and on that account it seems a pity that Mr. Robertson did not make it more prominent. Mr. Bancroft is excellently fitted with the part of the Chevalier Brown, a more thorough-paced scoundrel than his aristocratic frère. The scene in which he makes love to Rosie, who taxes him with the fact of his being a married man—difficulty which he explains away by falsely stating, with an assumption of serio-comic grief, that his wife is dead—is admirably played both by Mr. Bancroft and Miss Wilton. His make-up and dress were in perfect keeping with the character he represented. The part of the Chevalier's injured wife is charmingly played by Miss Foote; but the character is rather too melodramatic for natural treatment, except in the scene in which she returns to her shameless husband, which is prettily conceived and very gracefully rendered. The minor parts of the wealthy tradesman and the scheming spinster were well acted by Mr. Blakley and Mrs. Leigh Murray, particularly so by Mrs. Leigh Murray. Mr. Blakley has to contend with a tendency to undue emphasis, which may perhaps serve him well in larger theatres. The scenery, by Mr. Hawes Craven, is excellent. The "Alte Schloss" scene is rather too cumbersome for so small a stage; but, taking into consideration the limited area to which he has been restricted, the artist has certainly done wonders with it. To summarise briefly: The piece is deficient in interest as a story; but the characters are, in many instances, new to the stage—all are well drawn; and the dialogue is as brisk and as epigrammatic as anything that Mr. Robertson has hitherto written. I think the piece is sure to have a good run.

Mr. Bandmann, the new German tragedian, appears to have made a legitimate success at the LYCEUM. I went to see his début last Monday; but the crowded state of the theatre prevented my getting a seat in which a critical faculty could be fairly and impartially exercised; so I left after the first act. I hope to be more fortunate next week.

Mr. Stirling Coyne's comedy, the "Woman of the World," produced at the OLYMPIC, is but a moderate success. The piece opens well, but the second act is farcical in its incidents, and the third act wholly impossible. The dialogue is not particularly brilliant, and the characters, with one exception, are conventional. The exception to which I refer is a dissipated but talented Bohemian, who earns a precarious livelihood by writing clever speeches for a dull member of Parliament—a good idea, imperfectly carried out. Mr. Charles Mathews busies through a rattling, impudent part in his usual lively style, and Mrs. Stirling makes the best of a very inconsistent character. The scenery and appointments are better than usual at this theatre; but a lady's boudoir, that opens on to the street, and which contains a window several stories from the ground, together with a bath-room and a china closet, is an anomaly for which both the author and the scenic artist should be held responsible.

While all sorts of rumours are being circulated as to what is to be done at COVENT-GARDEN during the Opera season, an element of variety has been introduced into the performances now taking place. A number of strangely-costumed and strangely-bandaged Indian acrobats and jugglers have been engaged, six of whom are said to be women, while the remaining twelve are avowedly men. Both men and women are evidently adepts at their work; and it is announced in the bills that they once formed part of a celebrated company which was in the habit of playing before the King of Oude at Lucknow. Everything that the Indians do is well done, but they are a long time doing it, a still longer time getting ready to do it, nor do they attempt anything that is really very extraordinary. The person who seems to be the chief juggler, after an immense deal of preparation, pours a handful of dry sand into a basin of water, and then takes from out of the basin of water a handful of dry sand. This is a difficult feat, no doubt; but it is, after all, but a small achievement for so large a theatre. In fact, the Indians do no one thing sufficiently well to satisfy, nor, indeed, to come in any way near, the expectations of those who have seen the great European performers in a similar style. Still there is a certain character about them which makes their exhibition interesting for a short time.

The "last weeks" of "Black-Eyed Susan" at the NEW ROYALTY are at length announced. In another month that long-winded lady will be gathered to her fathers.

THE K. C. AMATEURS.

Some ladies and gentlemen, styling themselves the "K. C. Amateurs," gave a dramatic performance, on Friday, the 14th inst., at the St. George's Opera House, in aid of the funds of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. The first piece represented was Mr. B. Webster's "One Touch of Nature," in which Mrs. Garton's very pleasing conception of Constance Belmore elicited frequent plaudits. Mrs. Garton was well supported by Mr. Paulgrave as William Penholder, and by Mr. Frank Douglas as Beaumont Fletcher. The minor parts were creditably performed by Messrs. Maclean and C. A. Thorpe. The principal feature in the evening's entertainment was a "perfectly new and original" drama, in three acts, by Mr. Arthur Masson, entitled, "The Express; or, a Brother's Sacrifice." The incidents were not by any means original, and a considerable portion of the dialogue (entirely devoid of interest) might have been advantageously omitted. The part of Farmer Oakheart was well played by Mr. Frank Douglas, but his "make-up" in the first act was not sufficiently ancient. His younger son, Ashby (Mr. Matthews), under the able tuition of John Starkie, wastes the principal part of his father's fortune. Ashby's elder brother, Robert—who gives the supplementary title to the drama, by letting it be supposed that he, and not Ashby, is the spendthrift—was played moderately well by Mr. F. Roberts. John Starkie (Mr. C. A. Thorpe) is guilty of a few idiosyncrasies, such as destroying telegraph wires, railway signals, and attempting to upset an express train by placing a bar across the rails. A languid swell, Lieutenant Delaney, was enacted in an amusing manner by Mr. H. Hume. Mrs. Garton did her best with a very bad part—that of a young lady who rushes about to save her lover at the risk of her own life. The "waits" were tediously long, and the drama, on the whole, was not so successful as the comedietta. The concluding piece, "The Lottery Ticket," I did not stay to see. The performance was well attended, and the K.C. Amateurs, by their exertions, will probably be able to add a considerable sum to the funds of the hospital.

Bentinck's Tutor, One of the Family. A Novel. By the Author of "Lost Sir Massingberd." Two volumes. London: Sampson Low and Co.

Although not a syllable is heard either of Bentinck or his Tutor until the story is nearly half finished, there is so much attraction in these volumes that any amount of pardon may be given to an infelicitous title. It appears that "Bentinck's Tutor" was originally called "One of the Family" only during its publication in a popular periodical, and that the new name was necessary because the old one was found to have already figured on other pages. This explanation will, of course, be valuable to magazine readers, who may possibly object to perusing the same story twice; but all readers are recommended to read it once.

The book has three good points—no "faint praise" in days when so many have none. It is much shorter than the majority of novels; the style is lively and comic, and (with few exceptions) natural and to the purpose; and though the story is crammed with commonplace incidents, these are so well relieved by varieties of character as to be fresh enough for all un-used-up minds. In the midst of highly-graphic descriptions of Cumberland life and scenery, the first chapter introduces us to "Cat and Dog"—i.e., Mr. Ernest Woodford and his sister Selina. These middle-aged angels quarrel, and snap, and snarl in a style to please a misanthrope, and from first to last they carry out this very natural spite (for each fully deserves the utmost spite of the other) with laudable persistency. News presently comes that Woodford's nephew Charlie has been drowned at Rio, and, by some legal *deus ex machina*, Selina becomes heiress to all her brother's large property. Then Greek joins Greek, and the tug of war between Selina and Ernest is Grecian indeed. Selina, aged thirty-eight, marries Mr. Murphy, a capital specimen of an Irish painter, and in due time is blessed with a son and heir, which latter event so exasperates Ernest that he effects a reconciliation with his (hitherto unmentioned) wife, and this lady loves her lord so fondly as to have a son and heir also. Of course, there is no making up a quarrel when women have become so desperate as that; and so

it is left "very pretty as it stands" for some seventeen or eighteen years. But the reader guesses easily enough that Mrs. Woodford's child is not in reality her own, and what is more, Mrs. Murphy guessed precisely the same. For the rest, there need be no concealment. Stories like these are transparent enough. Bentinck Woodford, the supposed real heir, gets accidentally killed after a life of blackguardism and crime; but yet Selina is quite disappointed concerning her own or her son's claim, because the nephew, supposed to have been drowned, avows himself as quite undrowned at the proper moment. He, in fact, has been Bentinck's tutor, and the reader is in his confidence from the first. All this will be found very good reading, and nobody will object to the rather large collection of sudden deaths. As a family row it is excellent. But there is much that is serious on which we have not touched. Adams, the sapper and miner, who deserts "all for love" and is jilted, is artistically thrown in, and gets as much reparation as he deserves. The doctor and the parson, Lucy and Mary, and Rippon, the pit-ruffian, are all "up to the mark," and fill up the local scenery and the village life creditably. The drowned nephew, who goes by the name of Valentine Blake, is more serious. He is the hero—a handsome kind of giant, a soldier of fortune, always on the side of humanity, the saviour of a few countries, hand-in-hand with his bosom friend Garibaldi, and, moreover, one whose truth and manliness make him the arbiter of all with whom he comes in contact—something like Tom Thurnall in "Two Years Ago," or Mr. Charles Mathews in "The Overland Route." Blake's boyish love for his cousin, Eva Seton, is well maintained in after life, and Eva cherishes up her sentiments to an extent that is little short of miraculous and tiresome. The young lady is far too good for our taste, and the manner in which she and Adams the deserter talk over their crushed young affections, and indulge in pious heart-breaking, reminds us forcibly of Uncle Tom and little Eva. This is dull indeed. But, generally, the book is sparkling and vivacious, and good beyond all question.

Cassell's English and French Correspondence for Boys. London: Cassel, Petter, and Galpin.

This is a little manual of correspondence, given in French and English on opposite pages. The plan is a good one; for, besides teaching correspondence, it is likely to draw attention to points in the languages which might easily escape the attention of any but business men. The correctness of the translations may, of course, be taken for granted. The preliminary pages of advice as to letter-writing are very sensible; but, oddly enough, the specimens of letter-writing which follow appear to have been composed by someone wholly innocent of the introduction. Boys are recommended to have something to say when they write, to say it briefly, never to write long letters, and never to be literary. Capital! But, excepting the business specimens, the letters here are long, stupid, and literary (which we take to mean laboured). Fancy a page of this kind in reply to the announcement of a death—"Happy, thrice happy, they who believe in the immortality of the soul! . . . Pardon me for reminding you of truths so familiar to you," &c. In the next page a gentleman is going to be married, and his brother writes, "If I could come on the wings of the winds to congratulate you, &c. . . but, with 200 miles between us, my congratulations must, under the circumstances, remain between you and me *and the post*. . . Since you ask me if I can be present at the nuptials, what can I say but that I will?" This is certainly not literary, but let us hope that it is more laborious to the writer than natural.

Dr. Muspratt's Patients, and Other Stories. By DUTTON COOK, Author of "Hobson's Choice," "Sir Felix Foy, Bart.," "Paul Foster's Daughter," &c. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

This is a reprint of a series of stories, by the author of "Paul Foster's Daughter," which have already appeared in sundry periodicals. They are mostly of the light and "padding" style of writing, but amusing withal. A weird sort of interest attaches to the leading story, "Dr. Muspratt's Patients;" said patients being a couple of convicts whom the doctor resuscitated after they had been publicly hanged at Tyburn, and whom he subsequently found great difficulty either in keeping in order or getting rid of. The other stories call for no particular remark, save that in "Mrs. Jellico's Mistakes" there is moral that might be advantageously studied by housewives in these days, when domestic expenditure is exciting so much attention.

Carter's Practical Gardener: a Handy Book on Everyday Matters connected with Garden Routine. London: Carter and Co.

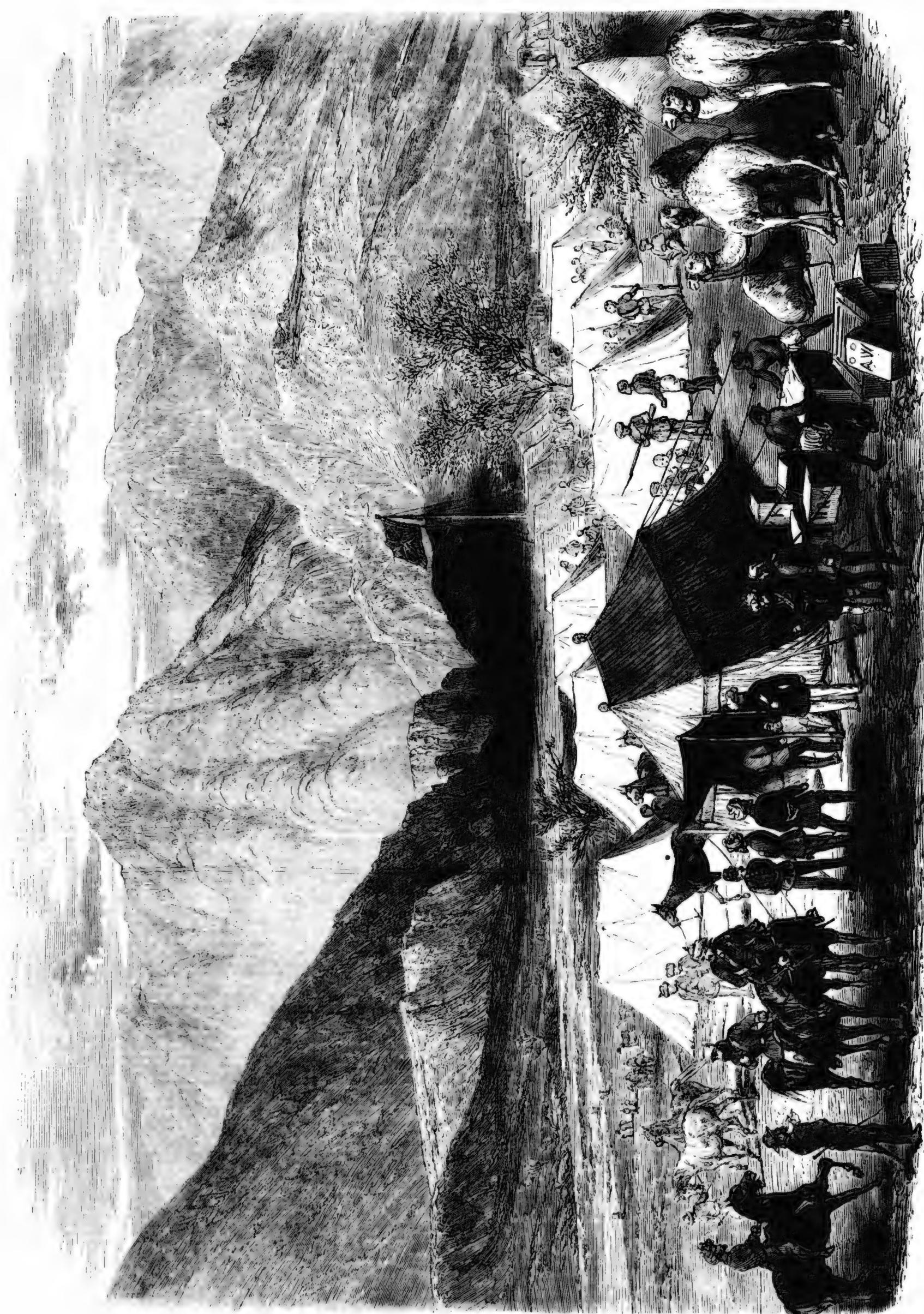
This is a useful little manual of gardening, adapted for the use both of the amateur and the professional cultivator of flowers, vegetables, &c. It is issued by the well-known firm of Carter and Co., High Holborn; and has been "projected to supply that which the current gardening literature of the day is deficient in—namely, a 'handy book' on gardening, at a reasonable price, which will, in plain, homely language, alike refresh the memory or instruct the professional or amateur gardener in the best-known method of 'how to do it.'" The aim of the projectors is good, and we doubt not their little book will subserve the purpose intended.

Cakes: How to Make Them in a Hundred Different Ways. By GEORGINA HILL. London: Routledge and Sons.

This is another of the useful series of Sixpenny Household Manuals published by Messrs. Routledge and written by Georgina Hill. Cakes form an important item in the pastrycook's art, and are of special interest for the denizens of the nursery; and a knowledge of how to make them in a hundred different ways, so that custom shall not stale their variety, is a matter of no small moment. And as this knowledge is conveyed in the little book before us, we commend it to the attention of all upon whom devolves the task of catering for young folk and for persons of delicate and fastidious appetites.

CONVOCATION.—Convocation reassembled on Tuesday, after the recess when there was a more than usual attendance. In the Upper House the new Bishop of Lichfield put in an appearance, and in the Lower House Dr. Hook, the Dean of Chichester, who has not before been present. The two main subjects before the Lower House were the Colenso scandal and the Lambeth Conference. In respect to the first, petitions and gravamina were presented, the object of most of which was to induce Convocation to take any further steps in its power to enforce the sentence of deposition and excommunication passed by the African Bishops against Dr. Colenso. On the second subject there was a warm debate. Canon Woodford moved that the President be asked to direct the encyclical letter to be read in that house. The Dean of Westminster considered that by this was intended a formal acknowledgment of the synodical character of the Lambeth Conference, and gave it his strongest opposition. Eventually the terms of the motion were altered somewhat in favour of the Dean's views; but a rider proposed by him was rejected by an overwhelming majority. The subjects of debate on subsequent days were Ritualism and some other kindred themes.

PURCHASE OF THE IRISH RAILWAYS BY THE GOVERNMENT.—We are informed that a vast amount of returns and other information is still being supplied by the several Irish companies. Various opinions are given as to what will be recommended, but there appears hardly a doubt that the Commissioners will recommend the purchase of the railways. It is thought, however, in some quarters, that difficulties would then only begin; but opinion seems almost to square with the particular wishes of the individuals affected. The directors and some of the officials hold opinions, or rather express such, against the proposed purchase; while those who are less liberally paid wish for any change that may improve their respective positions. One thing, however, is not only admitted but declared—that the Government has been most fortunate in the selection of Commissioners, and that the latter have employed the best hands to be found. The inspecting engineers and the locomotive valiators are held to be first-class men, and they have gone through their work most admirably. Whatever action may be ultimately taken by the Government, one thing is quite clear—namely, that the labours of the Commission will have produced a mass of information which can be made a safe and sound basis for any step that may be deemed judicious hereafter. The question of ultimate purchase will, no doubt, very much depend on the temper of Parliament at the particular moment it is proposed. The question of forced sale will also arise, as some original shareholders, for instance, who now receive no dividend whatever, may set up a claim as to the prospects of one, and may declare against the Government for depriving them of the fruits of this prospect.—"Railway News," Feb. 16.



THE WAR IN ABBYSSINIA : ON THE ROAD TO SENAPE.

THE LATE DISASTER AT NAPLES.

SOME particulars have already appeared in our columns regarding the fatal landslip that recently occurred at Santa Lucia, Naples, and which is depicted in the accompanying Engraving. In order to extricate the bodies of the sufferers, tunnels have been driven beneath the débris, under the superintendence of Captain Zampari and Cavaliere Alvino; and a correspondent, writing on the 12th inst., thus describes the discovery of the remains of several persons:—

"Yesterday I was present at one of the revelations of the fearful tragedy in Santa Lucia. The labourers were clearing away the débris in front of the castle entrance when a human hand was seen protruding through the sand, and that it was that of a woman was evident from the rings, fourteen of which were immediately taken off and consigned to the safe keeping of a guard of Public Security. Mingled with the sand in which she lay imbedded were fragments of clothes, furniture, and painted floor-tiles; while above were large masses of masonry, which threatened to fall. How to remove the body, therefore, without a disaster or without dismembering the limbs was a great difficulty. Poles were brought to shore up the superincumbent masses, while the excavations were carried on with great precaution. Indeed, it was pleasing to observe the sympathy which possessed the throng of soldiers, guards, and engineers, who crowded around, and the gentleness with which the chief, Cavaliere Alvino, gave his orders. 'Caritatevolmente,' he repeatedly cried; 'don't use picks; work with your hands, and spare the poor creature,' an order which was religiously obeyed. Gradually the whole of the shattered form was brought out to view—first a leg, then the body, then a hand from which ten other rings were taken, making twenty-four in all, and then the head, so one would conclude from the form, but of which no one feature was distinguishable. The manner in which she lay, or rather sat, one leg stretched forwards, and the other far behind her, told the melancholy story. She must have been running—and with what fearful impetuosity!—when a mountain of sand and rock and ruins of houses fell upon her, and crushed her down, dislocating her lower limbs, and stretching her out in that unnatural position. However cruel, her death must have been instantaneous, and this is the only consolation which remained for the survivors. Such was the end of a poor young bride, whom her husband had but recently brought to his father's home! The body of her mother-in-law was found at some little distance from her, and the tunnel of Zampari was carried on between them, so as just to miss both. It is only now that the workmen have been able to remove the débris from the streets. On the closing of the tunnel every effort was directed to shoring up the mountain and removing the barracks from the summit. This has been nearly effected; the interior is gutted, and the outer walls are being taken down, while below giant pilasters are erected in the street, and strong poles and scaffolding support other parts. The loss of life, I trust, has been exaggerated, though the number of the dead cannot, of course, be known yet; but the wreck of property presents a fearful spectacle such as is rarely witnessed. One house was ecclesiastical property which had been lately alienated, and a reactionary journal, in singularly bad taste and worse feeling, intimates that it was by a kind of judgment of God that it was destroyed. This misfortune, as may be readily imagined when the geological form of the ground on which the city stands and other circumstances are considered, has created a great panic. Half the population consider their own houses in danger, and many, doubtless, are so. The soil is altogether volcanic, being formed of a very friable tufa, and most of the buildings are composed of this material, which is cut from every available point. At the back of one of the ruined houses, an engineer informed me,

"GIRL AND RABBIT" IN THE PORCELAINE DEPARTMENT OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.



"GIRL AND RABBIT" IN THE PORCELAINE DEPARTMENT OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.



THE RECENT CATASTROPHE AT SANTA LUCIA, NAPLES.

proprietor had cut into the mountain to the depth of forty feet, thus adding so many more rabbit-holes to his property and, of course, weakening the soil. The famous tunnel of General Nunziante, out of which this *enfant chéri* of the Bourbons, soon after their antagonist, cut the materials with which he built the magnificent palaces in the Strada della Pace, is another instance of the same kind. On one occasion the top of the tunnel fell in and a number of carriages were precipitated below. On the Strada Vittorio Emanuele new houses have been lately erected against the tufa, cut perpendicularly, or even into the rock which hangs above them. Thus, here and in many parts of the city, through the negligence of the authorities or the avarice of proprietors, future disasters like that of Santa Lucia have been prepared. Indeed, anyone who walks through the byways as well as the highways of Naples will see many proofs of the necessity of caution in a city which is always more or less subject to volcanic action. Many of the houses are, so to speak, on crutches, and new fissures have been discovered in buildings hitherto considered safe. The barracks of San Potito have within the last fortnight been examined by engineers, and the troops removed from them. The staircase of the 'College of the Nobles' menaces a fall, and the mass of dismantled buildings opposite the Museum, which has been hitherto partly inhabited, has been vacated by superior orders in consequence of recent fissures. In short, without our being conscious of it, there is always a greater or less amount of volcanic action going on in Naples, the under part of which, for a considerable space, has been hollowed out to procure the material with which its palaces are built.

After writing the above, I went again to Santa Lucia, and arrived just as they had dug out another body, which proved to be that of the son of the master of the wineshop. The arm and part of the body of another person, supposed to be the father, were already exposed. They lay one on the top of the other, as though in each other's arms, and outside the shop."

A SOUVENIR OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

MANY of our readers, even if they do not remember the beautiful specimen of faience art which we reproduce in our Engraving, and which was one of the finest examples in that section at the Paris show, will have a lively recollection of that extraordinary collection of porcelain, jewelled pottery, and enamels.

This charming pencilling of the "Girl Feeding Rabbits" is a true work of art, and asserted itself amongst a hundred others of a more pretentious character, for the art of faience-work has certainly advanced during the last thirty years, and the discoveries in China and Japan gave an impetus to the workers in enamel and porcelain by stimulating them to imitate if not to surpass the superb examples brought from those countries. Enamel, as was observed by the *Times*' correspondent who wrote about this section in the Paris Exhibition, is simply glass. Thus majolica-ware and della Robbia are pieces of earthenware coated with an opaque glass which is called enamel. But when we have reached this point we are able to generalise still further. The transparent glaze of porcelain is also glass. The white biscuit is covered with a glaze to prepare it for the reception of whatever colours the artist chooses to bestow upon it. When an artist paints a Sévres vase he is not painting porcelain, he virtually paints on glass, which is backed with a beautiful white. Colour, to be brilliant and permanent, demands association with glass; and so it is that the stained windows of our churches; that the tinted goblets and vases of Venetian and Bohemian glass; that the fine Russian and Italian mosaics; that the enamels of Limoges—those upon copper of M. Popelin, and those on gold, of M. Lepec; that the landscapes on faience of Michel

Bouquet, and the decorated panels of Collinot and Deck; that the painted vases of Minton and the jewelled vessels of Copeland, are in the last analysis but various species and methods of one art—the art of using colour in combination with glass. Colour is the chief element of decoration; and glass, in one form or another, is the grand vehicle of decorative colour, its most brilliant and its only permanent mode of preservation.

THE WAR IN ABYSSINIA.

PROSPECTS OF THE EXPEDITION.

ACCORDING to news from Annesley Bay to the 2nd inst., it was reported that Menelek had been defeated, and that King Theodore had reached Magdala, having all the captives with him. The Egyptian troops were pushing forward, against the wish of the British authorities. A brief telegram from Senafe informs us that the leading brigade, which marched on Jan. 29 from that post, occupied Ategrat two days afterwards. Ategrat, the first considerable place on the road to Antalo, is the principal village in Agame, and the centre of a large traffic in salt. From a military point of view, it would be an important strategic point were there an enemy in the field. Under present circumstances, the value of the district lies in its markets, and the possibilities they may present of supplying the brigade with provisions and forage. Two routes lead from Ategrat southward: one by Lach, upon Atibedera, or Atsbi; the other by the valley of the Solek, upon the Dongolo defile; and, of course, we have no means of ascertaining which road Sir Robert Napier has selected. If the troops continued to march at the same rate they must have entered Antalo about Feb. 7.

The *Times* thinks that the last intelligence from Abyssinia is not likely to gratify the public at home. The cost of the expedition is exceeding in magnitude all estimates of the probable charge. Little progress is reported from the scene of war; our expected allies have been driven from the field; our enemy is said to have recovered possession of his stronghold; and the Egyptian forces are pursuing a course which must almost necessarily create trouble in one way or another. None of these difficulties, it is true, can be described as unforeseen; but it is hard to contemplate without dismay the prospects of certain cost which are opened before us. It is now actually stated, and with some appearance of authority, that the expense of freight and transport alone between Bombay and Abyssinia, exclusive of the charge for coal, amounts to £392,000 a month. In other words, we are spending money at the rate of nearly £5,000,000 a year on this one exigency of the campaign. All the expenditure incurred in this country, or between this country and Bombay, or in India itself, or in Abyssinia itself, remains still to be added. These five millions go for freight alone between the Indian and Abyssinian coasts, and, though the work of the expedition has been six months in hand, our army has only just made its first march from the base of our operations at Senafe. In some respects we have undoubtedly been fortunate. We have been relieved from the anticipated danger of a deadly climate, and we have found no insurmountable obstacles between the seacoast and the table land on which the campaign must be conducted. Perhaps at this moment we have actually at Senafe a sufficiency of supplies in store, but the establishment of those magazines has cost us not only vast labour and expense, but month after month of precious time.

ON THE ROAD TO SENAFE.

Some notion of the work our troops had to perform may be gathered from the subjoined description of the route between the coast and Senafe:—

"Camp, Upper Sooroo, Dec. 14.

"I arrived here last night at eleven o'clock, and as it took me seven hours to accomplish the distance I think I may safely say that the nominal twelve miles between here and Koomayloo are abnormally long ones. Such wonderful scenery as that of the route up this pass it rarely fails to a man's lot to contemplate. For wildness, isolation, and rugged grandeur it is not inferior to the most noted portions of the Via Mala, and the track which leads up it resembles the ascent of Monte Rosa rather than the contemplated path of a large army. The Alps of old could hardly have appeared more formidable to Hannibal himself than this must have been to the foremost files of our pioneer force, and it will require a deal more 'vinegar,' or gunpowder, to make it feasible for any number of troops to pass up. The steep bare rocks rise perpendicularly on all sides, and at times the defile, through which runs a trickling stream, does not exceed 20 ft. in width, whilst the frowning crags above look down upon the wayfarer from a height of at least 500 ft.; and the solemn stillness which reigns, with the Tartarean darkness, barely affected by the narrow ribbon of moonlit sky visible overhead, produces quite an appalling effect—a fit rendezvous for the witches in 'Macbeth,' and a 'situation' in which Byron would have revelled. These terrific steeps were the points of 'vantage' from which rocks and trees and every kind of missile were to have been hurled on our devoted heads by an infuriated Abyssinian populace; but these premature alarmists omitted to mention how our bloodthirsty assailants proposed in the first instance to attain the summits of the rocks in question. This, at any rate, would appear to be one chimera source of annihilation exploded. The mountain slopes are quite alive with hyenas, jackals, and monkeys of considerable size, the latter quite tame, and the others perfectly harmless; however, the British sportsmen and their rifles daily augment in numbers, and the game will soon be decimated, if not exterminated. It is already a trial of skill to wing a guinea-fowl, and the deer are almost entirely scared away by the perpetual 'popping.'

"Upper Sooroo itself is a place where the bed of the torrent, which is the only passage, widens out somewhat and allows of the establishment of a commissariat dépôt and the picketing of a few tents in which troops on the march may rest and pass the night. Although 2000 ft. above the sea level, the temperature is not appreciably cooler, except inasmuch as the perpendicular hills, which hem us in, afford a certain protection from the ardour of the morning and evening sun. Camels groan dismally, jackals cry like 10,000 'teething babies,' monkeys bark, locusts flap about one's eyes and ears, the dust chokes every pore, and the odour of putrefying mules (wafted up the pass) recalls the advice 'Let us sacrifice our olfactory organs'; but these are all minor miseries when the nerves are irritated to madness, and the brain in a whirl of confusion, from the plague of flies which fill the air, and from which no immunity can be contrived. From sunrise to sunset they reign supreme; and every tree and every tent is covered with a living, moving, buzzing mass of these little busy torments. You may kill them by hundreds on your head, arms, legs, table, anywhere, but it is perfectly futile; Hydra-like, for every dozen you fancy you have exterminated fifty swarm up in their place. The only redeeming feature about the spot is the existence of 'running' water in plenty, a boon only to be properly appreciated by those who for some weeks have been slaking their thirsts with the contents of warm condensing tanks and dirty, mawkish wells."

"Camp, Senafe, Dec. 16,

"Thanks to 'Conductor' Crowe, who superintends most admirably the large commissariat dépôt at Upper Sooroo, we passed a tolerable four-and-twenty hours at that place. The biscuit was hard—indeed, I may say antediluvian; but the 'goat' was tender, and the arrack, although not exactly the 'fine champagne' that one enjoys 'chez Bignon,' was still very drinkable. We proceeded up the pass, and after a most wearisome journey arrived here this day at noon. The distance from Zulla to Senafe, as officially estimated by Colonel Merewether, is sixty miles. Possibly he has directions from headquarters to represent everything more or less *coulour de rose* (and from sundry other discrepancies with the absolute fact I should judge this to be the case); but, as a matter of veracity, I am prepared, not only to swear, but to wager, that ninety miles is nearer the mark. After the final steep ascent we emerged upon an extensive plateau again, bounded by still loftier mountains in the far distance. At the end of five days' incessant toil over rocks, boulders, tree-stumps, and through formidable thorns and stony watercourses, it was a real pleasure to press one's horse into a canter over a tolerably level plain, scantily covered with herbage. At the end of two miles

Colonel Merewether's camp opened to our view—a goodly array of white tents, in which was encamped an effective force of nearly 1500 men.

"The camp is pitched on undulating ground, bounded, but not hemmed in, by low hills, some sharp-pointed bare crags, the rest bluff rocks covered with firs, thorns, and acacias. Everywhere the ground is strewn with stones of considerable size, which are being gradually cleared away, and the interior of the camp presents a tolerably level surface. The horses and mules picketed about form a picturesque adjunct to the scene, and the natives swarm around in hopes of masking an advantageous barter. Apropos of this, I think Colonel Merewether has slightly erred in excessive compaisance to the native population. It was indubitably right policy to prohibit all pillage or violence, and to insist on a *quid pro quo* being given for everything received from the Abyssinian rustics; but the tariff fixed by the Colonel—viz., six dollars (26s.) for a bullock, and one dollar and a half for a sheep or a goat—is decidedly too high. Two months ago they would have been sold at half the price, and now, of 'outsiders,' they ask double."

PARIS COSSIP.

THE French Constitution of 1791 declared the King irresponsible and his Ministers answerable: the King was put to death. The Constitution of 1814 proclaimed the same principle; the King was sent into exile. The irresponsibility which the First Emperor had enacted as respects himself did not prevent his throne from being toppled over. The Charter affirmed that Louis Philippe was irresponsible and his Ministers responsible: that Sovereign died a refugee at Twickenham, his responsible Ministers are at this day sitting in the French Chamber, and his irresponsible children are exiles. So much for French Constitutions on paper, and for non-responsibility.

His present Majesty does not much rely upon political men nor parties. He knows the value of ideas, no doubt; but he has got the broad common-sense that Cromwell and Frederick the Great had, and therefore he pays particular attention to keeping his powder dry and getting together many big battalions. Lists are already posted in all the twenty-four mayoralty houses of Paris containing the names of the young men belonging to the conscriptions of 1864, 1865, and 1866, and who form part of the Nationale Garde Mobile; and similar promptitude has been observed all over France. Nor are the naval forces neglected; for monster gun-boats, with rifled cannon of enormous calibre, are pushed rapidly forward, and no fewer than five were launched the other day from one dockyard. The encouragement given to the military spirit is becoming more and more conspicuous. The other day a Turco was sentenced by a court-martial to a paltry two months' imprisonment for throwing a young mechanic, who declined to step into the gutter to let him pass, into the middle of the road and breaking his neck. This is only the latest of a long series of such immunities enjoyed by the soldiery. But the most curious symptom appears in a long article in the *Moniteur*, setting forth in plain terms, so as to be understood by every *pious-pious* in barracks, that the Emperor during the last sixteen years has been the soldier's God. First, He gave the troops the Imperial Eagles, accompanied by champagne and sausages, at Satory, and since He has given them better and more daily food, better clothes, improved arms, high consideration, and lots of glory, wherever the Eagles have flown, not even excepting Mexico. It is a fact that throughout this article or appeal the pronoun He, Him, His, applied to the Emperor—*Celui*—is printed in that form which is reserved to the name of the Deity.

In Paris musical, dramatic, and artistic society the great success of Auber's new opera, "Un Premier Jour de Bonheur" is the event of the time. All the critics speak in more or less enthusiastic terms of it; but I do not see that any give it the broad praise of originality. The Opéra Comique has received all the élite of the Paris world to hear these last strains of the old composer. Auber is now eighty-seven. He has been summoned to the Tuilleries to be complimented by the Imperial pair. "This is the second day of happiness," he is said to have replied to these gracious conciliations. So you see he can be a courtier as well as a maestro. At the conclusion of the first representation he received a perfect ovation in the *foyer* of the opera, which moved him to tears. "Ah! why am I getting old?" he cried. You in London will no doubt have an opportunity of judging of the merits of this child of Auber's old age.

"Paul Forestier" is making a most successful run at the Théâtre Français, and its author will probably be made a senator. At the Odón, Dumas's "Keat" has been revived. In one scene the hero, Keat, shows his skill with his fists by giving a professional boxer a sound thrashing. A policeman, attracted by the set-to, stands by admiringly, and when the bully sneaks off the representative of the majesty of law and justice goes up to the victor and congratulates him. Thereupon a dozen voices from the pit shout, "Bravo! Vive la Police Anglais!" This was the signal for a vociferous demand for "Ruy Blas," which the Censure has forbidden. But the Spanish valet and statesman will not come when they call for him; he speaks too plainly and too passionately.

The last ball at the Hôtel de Ville was a very quiet affair, and the fine halls were far from being crowded. A revolution was apparent in the ladies' style of dress: no chignons—thank Heaven, that abomination is disappearing—but the hair flowing over the shoulders and a ringlet or two drawn in front, after the manner introduced by the Princess of Wales into London in 1863.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY, EDINBURGH.

THE forty-second annual exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy opened in Edinburgh last Saturday. It is, on the whole, the best exhibition the academy has yet held, whether we take into account the number or the quality of the works that have been contributed to it.

To the Queen the Scottish Academy is indebted for the loan of two well-known works by the late John Phillip—"The Marriage of the Princess Royal," and one of Phillip's earliest Spanish efforts, "The Letter-Writer of Seville." In addition to these completed subjects, there are exhibited the sketches of two or three of Phillip's large pictures, the finest of which is "A Festa in the Gipsy Quarter, Seville." In this the masterly hand of Phillip of Spain is clearly seen, especially in its admirable colour and easy, spirited composition. Two works, "Sunset" and "Moonrise—unfinished," by the late Horatio McCulloch, R.S.A., although not in themselves very favourable examples of his skill, have a strong interest attaching to them, as memorials of an artist whose vacant place among Scottish landscape-painters is not likely soon to be filled up. Sir Edwin Landseer's companion pictures of "Prosperity" and "Adversity" represent two scenes in horse's life. In the first the animal is the petted favourite of a young lady; in the second, old and worn out, he is the neglected drudge of an unfeeling cabman. The execution of both is very good, but, in so far as regards suggestiveness and general effect, "Adversity" seems to us the superior work of the two. In "Dora," by Mr. William M'Taggart, A., we have the heroine of Tennyson's poem sitting with the child among the wheat "upon a mound that was unsown, where many poppies grow." We do not think we could give higher praise to this picture than to say it is not unworthy of the poem it illustrates, for, like the poem, it is pure, graceful, and unaffected, and full of the telling power that is the necessary result of simplicity and tenderness. The arrangement of the figures is natural and easy, and the light falls effectively on the group. There is capital work in the background, but the main interest is concentrated in Dora and the child. "A Winter Night's Tale," by Mr. Daniel MacLise, R.A., is a striking picture, with considerable variety in it; had the execution, however, been softer, the effect would have been improved. In "Gethsemane" Sir Noel Paton has chosen a subject so difficult to handle that most men would have shrunk from attempting it. In Sir Noel's

work there are beautiful symbolism and rich colour and careful execution; but in a representation of our Saviour's agony we require something more than these, and that something seems to us to be in great part wanting in Sir Noel's rendering of the awful incident. There is power in the picture, and the tendency of the power displayed is in the right direction, but its intensity is not sufficiently great, and the result is positive weakness of effect. In one or two small illustrations of passages in "The Ancient Mariner" Sir Noel Paton is seen to much greater advantage. His soft, delicate touch and poetic feeling make these in their way quite unique. In "A Messenger of the New Faith, Rome, A.D. 150," Mr. W. B. Scott aims high; the intention and meaning of the picture are its strongest points. "The Ballad," by Mr. John Faed, R.S.A., depicting an old man reading to an audience of women, young and old, is a popular painting. It contains variety of expression, and the details are amply and carefully worked out. The finest work by Mr. G. P. Chalmers, A., is a small one, "The Pleasures of Hope"—a young mother watching her baby in the cradle. The colour in this and in "The Bible Story" by the same artist, is excellent, and the general feeling very pure and pleasant. The studies by Mr. William Douglas, R.S.A., show, for the most part, good technical knowledge. His best picture is "Collating MSS.—the Whispered Correction."

Mr. Houston's smaller work, "The Broken Target" is superior in feeling to his larger one, "The Captured Banner." The subject of the latter, a youthful knight presenting the evidence of his prowess to his lady and her father, is not badly chosen, and the composition, although a little stagey, is picturesque. "An Introduction," and "Henry II. and Fair Rosamond," by Mr. James Archer, R.S.A., are well painted; but we must confess to have seen this clever artist appear to greater advantage on previous occasions. Mr. Erskine Nicol, as usual, throws abundance of humour into his pictures. "The Finishing Touch," an Irish wife adjusting her husband's rather well-developed necktie before she sallies out to the fair, is a capital bit of life, with many strong points in both the faces and figures. Mr. George Hay's "Shopping in the Fifteenth Century" is an excellent costume picture. The main figures are skilfully arranged, the colours are well chosen, and the background put in with discrimination. There is well-marked character in the "Ballad-Singer," by the same artist. Mr. Keeley Halswell's scenes from the life of a fishing-village are in his old style, and, as in former years, are clever and effective. The two best are probably "The Fisherman's Daughter," and the juvenile fisher population attempting an amateur concert, under the title of "Newhaven Minstrels." In Mr. R. P. Bell's "Checkmate Next Move" we have a well-composed and well-painted picture. The colour, expression, and grouping are worthy of very high praise. "The Alarm," by Mr. J. B. Macdonald, R.S.A., is an animated and striking picture, fine in feeling and conception, and soft and subdued in execution and colour. "The Light of the Fireside," by Mr. Hugh Cameron, A.—a little girl, sitting, blowing the fire with a pair of bellows—is as sweet a delineation of the innocence of childhood as one could wish to see. Its tenderness and grace are very delightful. Mr. Thos. Graham's clever picture of "Monks Playing at Bowls" was exhibited at the Royal Academy last year.

Among the noteworthy foreign works in the gallery are "An Eastern Lady," a fine head by Portaels; a broad landscape by the late A. Mollinger; a good cattle piece by Haas, a portrait of Rosa Bonheur by Dubufe, and "The Wood-gatherers," by M. Michael.

Sir George Harvey, president of the Academy, exhibits a large landscape, "Glen Falloch"—very broad and effective in the foreground. Mr. Sam Bough's "Borrowdale" is a splendid piece of work; the hill and road on the left, the water brawling over the stones, and the glint of sunshine coming in upon the distance, are truthfully and strongly painted. Among the several excellent water colours contributed by Mr. Bough, "St. Monance," "Cauty Bay," and "North Berwick Harbour" deserve particular mention. Mr. Cassie's "Road Across the Moor, Glen Urquhart," is a large and striking landscape. The foreground is carefully worked up, and the distance, with a sunset tinged the hills with gold, is skilfully and powerfully rendered. "Summer Day in the Bay of Millport," by the same artist, is very pleasing in its soft, dreamy effect. "Foul Weather—Bass Rock in the Distance" is a clever storm-scene. "Mouth of the Ythan at Low Water" and "Glen Muich," with some first-rate cattle in it, are also by Mr. Cassie. Mr. Beattie Brown's "Rosslyn Ford" is, so far as we can judge, the best landscape this artist has yet painted. The feeling in it is admirable. Mr. Brown has caught very successfully the stillness of early morn. The trees to the right, and the water with the deep shadows on it, are perhaps the best points in the work. "Moorland in Arran," also by Mr. Brown, is another excellent picture, containing well-managed effects. Mr. McWhirter's "Pine Forest," one of the most important landscapes in the gallery, is grand and solemn, and full of quiet power. In his "Water Lilies" there is a fine sunniness, suggestive of summer days and laziness begotten of the heat. Mr. John Smart's "Rain Clouds Crossing the Valley at Aberfoyle" will more than sustain his reputation. There is truthful, effective work in it: the hills are remarkably good. The same artist exhibits "Sundown on the London Scottish Camp at Wimbledon," an interesting and clever picture; "A Summer Moonrise in the Highlands;" and several very nice studies. Mr. W. F. Vallance's "Scarboro' Bay" and "The Salute" are two fine seascapes. In his "Billowness" we have tumbling, spray-fringed waves, painted with a dexterous hand. Mr. Peter Graham's "Along the Coast" is a representation of cliffs rising sheer out of the sea. The picture, although there is little variety in it, is powerful in effect; the cliffs and the green water are most faithfully painted, and the perspective is admirable. "The Tomb of the Bruce, at Dunfermline," by Mr. Walter Paton, and his water colour of "Loch-in-daal, Skye;" "Dunblane Cathedral," by Mr. George Reid; Mr. E. T. Crawford's works, particularly "Dunstanburgh Castle;" pictures by Mr. Arthur Perigal, R.S.A.; Mr. D. O. Hill, R.S.A.; Mr. T. Clark, A.; Mr. Alexander Fraser, R.S.A.; Mr. J. Nesbitt, and Mr. Joseph Farquharson, and the water colours of Mr. Frier and Mr. Ferrier, are among the remaining important contributions to the landscape department of the exhibition.

There are many good portraits exhibited by Mr. Daniel Macnee, R.S.A.; Mr. William Crawford, Mr. Mungo Burton, Mr. J. M. Barclay, Mr. T. Knott, and others. The finest work in this branch of art is, without doubt, Mr. Herdman's portrait of Mrs. Shand. It is more than a mere portrait: it is a beautiful picture. Mr. George Reid's portrait of George Macdonald, author of "David Elginbrod," &c., attracts much attention, both from the excellence of the painting and the fame of the subject. Macdonald's face is like many passages in his own works: it would require to be often read before the fullness of its meaning could be grasped. Mr. Kenneth M'Leay's water-colour drawing of Prince Albert, painted for the Queen, is graceful and elegant.

Gourley Steel, R.S.A., exhibits several spirited animal-pictures. The works of a young animal-painter, Mr. Edwin Douglas, deserve high praise. He promises, should he be cautious, to become the future Landseer of Scotland.

The sculpture department of the exhibition is strong in good busts by Mr. William Brodie, R.S.A.; Mr. George Macalum, Mrs. D. O. Hill, and others. A statue in marble, "Light in Darkness"—the figure of a blind girl reading the Bible—by Mr. William Brodie, is very beautiful. The attitude is exceedingly graceful; and the calm, sweet expression of the face betokens that, while the outward eyes are closed for ever, there is unfading light within the heart.

THE BOARD OF WORKS SCANDAL.—The evidence relating to the Doulton and Roche inquiry is to be published and forwarded to the vestries and districts boards of the metropolis. At the meeting of the Board of Works last week motion again the publication, made by Colonel Hogg, was lost by 30 to 9. There is now nothing left to interfere with the standing order that the minutes of proceedings before the central board shall be forwarded to the vestries and local boards. Both Mr. Doulton and Mr. Roche are said to desire the publication of the evidence. Mr. John Pollard, clerk to the Metropolitan Board of Works, has received a communication from Mr. Doulton, M.P., resigning his seat at the board as one of the members for Lambeth.

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The Committee, before proceeding to lay out the walks, invite all parties who may be interested to visit the Burial Ground for the purpose of recognising and identifying the Graves, Tombs, and Vaults in which their relatives' friends may be interred.

Persons desiring to use the ground will be permitted to do so, free of charge, and application to the Keeper between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. o'clock.

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